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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 1. January 2, 1931.

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U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

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1a. WESTERN FARM AND HOME HOUR RADIO PROGRAMS

The agricultural radio programs for the Pacific Coast and Intermountain States, inaugurated by the Department on January 1, will be broadcast daily from Monday to Friday, inclusive, 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. Pacific standard time, on a network of 10 associated stations of the National Broadcasting Company. The broadcasts will originate from the San Francisco studios of the National Broadcasting Company, 111 Sutter Street. There will be 20 minutes of music and entertainment contributed by the National Broadcasting Company; 5 minutes of news dispatches arranged by that company; and 20 minutes of information arranged and delivered by the Department and cooperating agencies. The programs will include the following stations:

KTAR, Phoenix Ariz.	KGW, Portland, Oreg.
KFSD, San Diego, Calif.	KOMO, Seattle, Wash.
KFI, Los Angeles, Calif.	KHQ, Spokane, Wash.
KPO, San Francisco, Calif.	KSL, Salt Lake City, Utah.
KGO, Oakland, Calif.	KOA, Denver, Colo.

The Department's portions of the program will be directed by a western program-manager. R. H. Lamb, of the Division of Fruits and Vegetables has been detailed to assist Morse Salisbury, Chief of the Department Radio Service, in inaugurating the western service. All divisions of the Bureau, represented in the Pacific Coast and Intermountain regions, have been requested to cooperate to the fullest extent with Mr. Salisbury and Mr. Lamb in arranging programs. The Administrative Regulations do not require that radio speeches be approved by administrative officers in advance of delivery. It is satisfactory if copies of such speeches are furnished after delivery has been made.

The Western Farm and Home Hour represents the first step in regionalizing the Department network radio programs, so as to make them of maximum value to the radio audience. (from The B.A.E. News)

2a. PLEASE COOPERATE WITH MR. LAMB

In connection with the item published above, all representatives of our F. & V. Division, particularly those in the Pacific Coast and Intermountain States, are requested to cooperate with Mr. Lamb, at the San Francisco office, in suggesting topics or speakers for these daily radio programs. Suitable subjects for discussion and appropriate speakers, some of whom may be traveling in the West, should be suggested to Mr. Lamb periodically. He will appreciate your cooperation.

3a. DECEMBER 1 STORAGE-HOLDINGS OF WASHINGTON APPLES AND PEARS

Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, submitted the following report of December 1 storage-holdings:-

APPLES:

YAKIMA DISTRICT	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
Cold Storage	5,282	5,186	5,019	6,682	6,109	7,953
Common Storage	1,880	1,056	1,029	1,292	912	1,467
Total	7,162	6,242	6,048	7,974	7,021	9,420
WENATCHEE DISTRICT						
Cold Storage	1,874	2,543	3,166	4,258	4,537	5,776
Common Storage	2,358	1,837	2,101	2,672	2,345½	3,239½
Total	4,232	4,380	5,267	6,930	6,882½	9,015½

REPORT BY VARIETIES:

	YAKIMA		WENATCHEE	
	1929 cars	1930 cars	1929 cars	1930 cars
Winesaps	5,071	5,305	4,421	4,815
Jonathans	157½	224	47	56
Romes	758	1,670	369	724½
Delicious	542½	1,166	963	1,424½
Yellow Newtowns	142½	420	70	171
Spitzenburgs	15½	62	82	122
Ark. Blacks	144½	278	79	129
Staymans	80	122½	216	405
Black Twigs	44	56	28½	36½
W.W. Pearmains	10½	34½	45½	86
Black Bens and Ganos	16	20	38	35
Miscellaneous	39	62	26½	53
Total	7,021	9,420	6,385½	8,057½
Ranch Holdings	--	--	497	958
	7,021	9,420	6,882½	9,015½
PEARS:				
Nellis	391	621½	7½	--
D'Anjous	164	186	63	--
Bosc	15	46½	1	--
Miscellaneous	12	56	12	--
Total	582	910	83½	--

HOLDINGS OF APPLES, SPOKANE DISTRICT:

	Dec. 1, 1930
Cold storage	42½
Common storage	49
Total	91½

4a. U. S. COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF APPLES IN DECEMBER

The December report of cold-storage holdings of apples in the United States was released on December 12, and is as follows:

	Dec. 1, 1930	Dec. 1, 1929	Five-year Avg.
Barrels:	1,454,000	2,097,000	3,168,000
Boxes:	21,204,000	15,235,000	14,847,000
Baskets:	7,010,000	6,613,000	4,141,000

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. IDAHO POTATOES AN IMPORTANT MARKET FACTOR

L. C. Tate wrote as follows from Idaho Falls in a letter dated December 26:-

"Potato shipments from Idaho have been rather limited during the last week, due largely to very low temperatures that hindered hauling and practically stopped farmers from loading at country spurs. Total shipments will pass 12,000 cars before New Year's Day. Using the popular estimate of 30,000 cars for the State this season, this indicates a movement of 40% prior to January 1, as compared with 48% last season, 35% two years ago and 37% three years ago. The 10-year average is 48%, so that we may consider Idaho this year to be in about the same position as during the two years of heavy national production, 1927 and 1928.

"Market demand has been poor most of this month, but inquiry picked-up considerably the day before Christmas and prices firmed-up immediately. Loadings, at the time, were limited by the cold weather. Shippers look for a short period of brisk demand during the next two or three weeks, but have little hope of a sustained demand that would be capable of maintaining an advance of price.

"Trade comments are always worth passing on. Most of the shippers here state flatly that Idaho today has more potatoes in storage than ever before, and most of them believe there are as many being held back now as were harvested in the entire 1929 crop. This is probably true, but of the potatoes in storage a portion will show shrinkage from freezing-injury, amounting to as much as 35%. This will probably cut the holdings down by 1,000 cars or more.

"I note by the Division Letter of two weeks ago that potato operators in Maine feel they are the controlling factor in the national marketing scheme. One who is acquainted with conditions out here cannot help but feel they are overlooking a vital factor in Idaho. Idaho, in turn, is depending on Colorado somewhat as a leader. I wonder whether the eastern potato operators realize just how many potatoes were grown west of the Missouri River this season?"

2b. MAINE POTATO SHIPPERS HOLDING-OFF

The following undated letter (probably written about December 22) was received from W. D. Hull, at Presque Isle, Maine:-

"During the past week there has been but little activity in the Maine potato market. Growers and shippers alike were holding-off until the December crop report was released. Shipments were rather light during the first part of the week, but increased to 201 cars on Thursday. Saturday, December 20, was the heaviest day, with 264 cars. Total shipments for the past week were 1,108, compared with 1,368 during the corresponding week in 1929.

"Many of the growers feel confident that the market will improve and are very reluctant to sell at present prices. Haulings from the farms are very light, and the greater portion of the stock being shipped is coming from the track-side warehouses of the dealers who bought the potatoes last fall.

(continued over)

"In general, a feeling of optimism prevails throughout the entire district, but little activity is anticipated until after the first of the year. Wire inquiry has been fairly good and the dealers could fill many orders at 5¢ to 10¢ per bag under the price which they ask. However, the majority of them are unwilling to do this and prefer an attitude of watchful-waiting.

Shipments of certified seed have been very light and the market is dull, buyers and shippers not being able to agree on the price."

3b. HEAVY MOVEMENT OF MICHIGAN ONIONS

R. E. Keller wrote from Grand Rapids, Mich., as follows on December 21:-

"The Christmas trade demands seasonal produce. So Michigan dealers have been putting their time, money, floor-space, and sales-help into Christmas trees, Christmas decorations, oranges, apples, celery, cranberries, and similar holiday stock, while staple commodities like potatoes and onions have been allowed to drag. In addition to the holiday business, most all of the receivers have been curtailing purchases to reduce their stock on hand for the January 1 inventory.

"Thus, the Michigan onion and potato business has been quite limited during the past week. Onion shipments dropped just half during last week from the figure of the week previous, 73 cars moving as against 150. Not only that but the market also showed a decline, the weekly price-range dropping from 90¢ and $1 to 85¢-95¢ on the 100-pound sacks of yellows, and from 45¢-50¢ to 42½¢-47½¢ on the 50-pound sacks. The shipments to date are more than double those of last year, 2,928 having moved, as against 1,461 cars a year ago. In fact, this year's figure is almost up to the total for the entire crop moved during the 1929-30 season. Last season, approximately 50% of the carlot onion shipments were moved by January 1 and it appears now that about the same ratio has been moved so far this year, as the estimates run between 5,000 and 6,000 cars for the State.

"The potato deal still remains a negligible factor, 68 cars moving last week, as against 66 two weeks ago."

4b. COLORADO ONION AND POTATO SITUATION OUTLINED

Bryce Morris wrote the following letter from Denver on December 27:-

"The past week has been very quiet except for good jobbing sales on Monday and Tuesday preceding Christmas. Lettuce prices dropped 25¢-50¢ per crate during the week, with most sales of Arizona Iceberg-type now at $3.25 and a few sales of oridinary quality as low as $3.

"Onion shipments this week have been very light. Loadings have been so light that it has been impossible to secure any quotations from the Western Slope and too few to make a market from the Arkansas Valley.

"Potato shipments were comparatively light, ranging from 12 cars on Monday, December 22, to 67 on Tuesday. In the San Luis Valley, prices have advanced 10¢-15¢ per cwt., with farmers receiving 90¢ and a few 95¢ for U. S. No. 1 Brown Beautys, while McClures of the same quality brought 95¢, with an occasional car as high as $1. Colorado Grade Standard potatoes were generally 5¢-10¢ lower than No. 1's, according to quality. Prices were

higher in the San Luis Valley before the rise was noticeable to outside points, thus anticipating the present advance.

"In northern Colorado, potato shipments have ranged from 1 to 7 cars daily, with a total movement now 1,840 cars, compared with 1,383 last year. There is a difference in opinion as to the number remaining to be shipped, ranging from 4,000 to 5,000 cars, but the general estimate seems to be around 4,500 cars. Prices advanced in the Greeley section about 15¢ per cwt., with growers receiving 85¢-90¢ on No. 1's and 80¢-85¢ on Standards. The percentage of No. 1's is quite small, with the bulk of the loadings ranging from 80% to 90% U. S. No. 1.

"Potato shipments from the Western Slope have been very light, totaling only 13 cars for this week to Friday night. Most of these have come from the Carbondale and Montrose districts. The total movement from these two producing areas is only 843 cars, compared with 1,413 at this time last season. The growers and shippers around Montrose seem to think that shipments in their particular area will be slightly under last year, although the Carbondale section should equal or exceed the 1929 crop. Shippers generally anticipate 20,000 cars from the State this season. After the first of January, shipments are expected to increase materially both from northern Colorado and the Western Slope. With a slight increase in prices, no doubt loadings will be heavier from the San Luis Valley also."

5b. MAINE POTATO MARKET STRENGTHENS

A supplementary letter, dated December 29, was received from W. D. Hull at Presque Isle, Maine, as follows:-

"The past week has seen a slight strengthening of the Maine potato market. The market closed Friday and Saturday with the majority of the dealers paying $2 per barrel throughout the county. Haulings were fairly liberal at this price, as many of the growers had their ideas set on a $2 market and haulings had been very light at lower prices. In the terminal markets, prices were 5¢ to 10¢ higher than the previous week, and market conditions seemed to warrant paying higher prices to the growers. On Friday and Saturday the f.o.b. market on Green Mountains was $1.40-$1.45 per 100-pound sack, a few sales of bulk stock being made at $1.30-$1.35. Some of the dealers are very optimistic and expect shipments to reach 300 cars daily before the end of this week, feeling confident that the markets will absorb that number and remain steady, while others think that any great increase in shipments will have a depressing effect on the markets. Only 56 cars of certified seed were shipped last week and 961 cars of table stock."

6b. RECENT NEWS REGARDING WESTERN NEW YORK CROPS

On December 22, R. L. Sutton wrote the following letter from the Rochester office:-

"The demand and trading for western New York fruits and vegetables has been very slow during the past seven days. This condition has been developed to a large extent by the usual lack of interest existing just prior to Christmas.

"There should have been more activity in the celery market, but this season the extra volume of business for the holiday-trade did not materialize.

F.o.b. sales of two-thirds crates of 4-6 dozen stalks ranged $1.65-$1.85, with a few smaller sizes going somewhat higher. California forwarded a large number of cars to arrive at the eastern and midwestern terminals for the holiday demands.

"Cabbage has ruled dull and f.o.b. sales continued rather scarce. Daily shipments held around 50 cars. The percentage of consigned shipments represented a large volume of the movement. At shipping points, carloads of small to medium Danish realized $13-$15, while the stock loaded in 90-pound sacks brought $16-$18 per ton. Although the distribution has been fairly widespread, the large terminals such as New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Baltimore continue to take large quantities.

"There has been very little demand for onions recently. Market continues dull and values have declined. Carlot sales of 100-pound sacks of U. S. No. 1 yellows, 70% to 75% 2 inches and larger, held around 90¢. It is expected that this week will see even a smaller amount of business on all commodities than has been the case heretofore.

"Apples have held about steady, but the volume of trading has not been near what it should have been. It has been noticed that the cars billed for export have shown some increase recently, but the f.o.b. business for this type of shipment has shown no material improvement.

"Potatoes have been held to a light volume of movement and f.o.b. sales showed little variation. The reduction in the crop allowed by the latest estimates will probably have some beneficial effect. Carrots remain inactive, with f.o.b. sales few and far between; 100-pound sacks realized 55¢-60¢."

7b. WISCONSIN POTATO SITUATION SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE

On December 19, C. D. Schoolcraft submitted the following letter from Waupaca, Wisconsin:-

"The Wisconsin potato market during the past week or 10 days has been generally draggy, with carlot prices fluctuating every few days, but remaining within a general range of $1.15-$1.25 per 100 pounds. Shipments have been slightly heavier, averaging around 35 cars a day since December 10, as compared with an average of around 25 cars for the greater part of the month previous. Distribution is a little better and, for the first time since the very early part of the season, arrivals and prices are being reported from such cities as Cleveland, Detroit and Pittsburgh. Even with the light crop of this season, Wisconsin probably has within a thousand cars as many to move as were moved after this date last year. There are somewhere around 6,500 cars yet to ship.

"With the Chicago track-holdings running between 140 and 200 cars since the 10th, shippers here anticipated some improvement in the market, especially since the production estimate was cut. However, today when the track-holdings at Chicago increased to 242 cars, the market weakened somewhat, indicating that it will not stand the pressure of greatly increased arrivals. Nevertheless, most of the shippers here and practically all the growers are anticipating some improvement after the first of the year, although most of them do not expect any great or rapid rise in the market."

- DO YOU NEED ANY COPIES OF THE 1930 D.L. TO COMPLETE YOUR FILE? -

8b. FROST AFFECTING SALT RIVER VALLEY LETTUCE

On December 23, B. E. Surry sent the following information from Phoenix, Arizona:-

"Five days of heavy frost in the Salt River Valley have checked lettuce shipments which, up to last Wednesday, were on the increase. Loadings decreased from 142 cars on Wednesday to 99 cars for Saturday. The frost kept cutters out of the fields on some days until 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon. On Sunday the weather moderated and 155 cars moved from Arizona on Monday. To date the State has shipped 1,830 cars of lettuce, compared with 948 in 1929 and 2,525 on the same date in 1928. Casa Grande, the new section southeast of Phoenix, with approximately 1,100 acres, has shipped 403 cars. Yuma has loaded only 60 cars.

"The cash-track market has ranged $1.50-$1.85 for generally good-quality lettuce, with most sales around $1.75. Shippers have been endeavoring to hold the cash market at $1.75, but with only partial success. Many sales have been made the last few days at $1.65, with some sales at $1.50 made mostly by the small shippers who did not care to roll their cars unsold.

"General quality of the lettuce has been affected by the cold weather. Most shipments show some frost-damage, with marginal browning of the outer leaves. Solidity is better than a week ago, and there is a larger percentage of five and six-dozen sizes now being shipped. It is the general opinion of shippers that sizes will continue to run smaller, due to the frost."

9b. RECENT NEWS ON FLORIDA TRUCK CROPS

Parts of a letter of December 20 from V. H. Nicholson, at Miami, are quoted below:-

"Carlot shipments of beans have been very light this week. The recent frosts have damaged the crop around the Lake very severely, Mr. Mounts, County Agent of Palm Beach County, has stated that about 1,200 or 1,500 acres of vegetables escaped the frost and that replanting was going on at a rather slow pace in most sections around Lake Okeechobee.

"The acreage of peppers has been increased considerably over that of last season. Broward County, around Pompano and Ft. Lauderdale, had about 1,800 acres of peppers last winter, but the plantings this season have been variously estimated at 2,500 to 3,000 acres. Although the shipments from the State have been rather heavy this week, movement from Pompano was light. Shipments have been mostly from around Ft. Meyers and Palmetto, with a few cars from other sections of the State.

"Growers around Pompano are waiting as long as possible to pick their crop, hoping that in the meantime the market will improve. Prices for growers'-pack have been mostly $1-$1.25 for Fancy and around 75¢ for Choice at Pompano the last two days. Some of the packing-house stock has brought around $1.25-$1.50 on an f.o.b. carlot basis, but the market has been very dull account of the heavy shipments."

Continuing in a letter dated December 27, Mr. Nicholson sent the following information:-

"Shipments of all vegetables from southern Florida have been rather light the past week. The rains during Sunday and Monday and the holiday on Thursday were primarily responsible for the light movement.

(continued over)

"The movement of snap beans has been very light and prices have reached the highest level of the past two seasons. Yesterday, most Bountifuls of only fair quality sold $6-$6.50 at Pompano and there were a few sales of good quality stock as high as $7.50 per bushel hamper. However, quality of the shipments from that section was injured somewhat by the cold, wet weather during the first of this week. Probably the damage to the crop around Pompano during this month will cut yields as much as 30% or 35%. However, there have been no fields killed outright, as was the case in the Lake Okeechobee section.

"The Pompano acreage has been estimated at 3,500 to 4,000 acres and planting is still going on. A good part of the acreage around Pompano was intended for shipment during January. One of the largest shippers has shipped no beans so far this season, and will not have any ready until the latter part of next week.

"Movement from the Lake Okeechobee section continues very light. That section has about 1,000 to 1,200 acres of beans, most of which will be ready for shipment during January. Quality of these shipments, however, will probably be only fair.

"The rains the first of the week probably benefited the tomato crop. But the rain and the holiday have been responsible for the considerably lighter movement this week. As a result of the rains, quality during the next few days will be only fair. During the last few days, it has been very difficult to sell carlots on any basis or at any price at all comparable to last week's figures. A few cars have been shipped, with the understanding that $2.25-$2.50 would be the basis of settlement, if the shipment arrived in good shape. Most of the business this week has been on consignment.

"The tomato movement next week will probably reach that of the week preceding Christmas, when total from the State amounted to around 120 cars. Providing there is no further damage from cold or wet weather, carlot shipments of tomatoes should increase during January but probably will not be very heavy until February.

10b. PRICES OF NEW YORK CELERY AND POTATOES ADVANCE

In a second letter, dated December 30 at Rochester, N.Y., further information was sent by R. L. Sutton:-

"During the past few days more interest has developed in celery than in any other commodity. The market has been excited locally, and the demand increased largely on account of damage to the California crop. Local information has indicated the freezing-damage in California to vary from 1,000 cars to as high as 40% of the crop. Official reports as to the extent of damage are lacking. F.o.b. sales advanced 25¢-50¢ per crate, carlot sales of 5-7 dozen being made in western New York at $2-$2.25. There is a scarcity of small sizes, which are in the greatest demand. Latest reports of holdings indicate that on December 26 about 86,794 crates were in storage, as compared with 51,669 in the western part of the State at the same time last year. The report would indicate approximately 347 cars available on December 26, but, due to shrinkage and waste from stripping, decay, etc., probably less than 300 cars will be shipped. The movement this season to date has filled 5,226 cars, compared with 3,728 to the same time last season. Terminal markets recently have also shown advance in prices.

"Potatoes advanced slightly, recent shipping-point prices going as high as $2.45 per 150-pound sack, U. S. No. 1 Round Whites. It is understood that quite generally in western New York the quality of potatoes is only fair. Some difficulty is being experienced in meeting the requirements of the U. S. No. 1 grade. Daily loadings hold around 15 to 20 cars."

11b. POTATOES WASHED AND PACKED IN 10-POUND PAPER BAGS

The following interesting letter was received from Walter Kingsbury, of the Los Angeles office, under date of December 27:-

"I thought you might be interested in a recent development in the marketing of potatoes in Los Angeles.

"The Frederick H. Rindge Company, one of the largest potato growers and shippers in the Stockton district, has recently constructed a washing and packaging plant for Burbank potatoes at Los Angeles, that is probably the largest of its kind in existence. The potatoes are washed, dried, graded and packed in 10-pound paper bags in one operation. The plant occupies one end of a fair-sized warehouse, and Mr. Rindge claims that, when operated at full capacity, it can handle a carload every 40 minutes.

"The potatoes are dumped on a carrier at floor-level at the car-door and are carried slowly through a tank of water. At the end of the tank, they are elevated vertically about 12 feet under a spray of water. They next pass over a series of seven brushes revolving in a horizontal plane. Each brush is about two feet in diameter and revolves in a brush-lined circular form. Each revolving brush is arranged tangent to the next so that the potatoes, after passing completely around one brush, are passed on to the next, and so on throughout the series of seven. From here they pass through a long, sloping, revolving, slatted drum, equipped with blower and suction fans. Then they pass on to a wide grading-belt, with several openings at the side for filling 100-pound sacks if desired. The potatoes are dry enough at this stage so that they do not wet the sacks noticeably.

"Potatoes which are to be packed in the 10-pound bags go from here to a long, drying tunnel, with blower-fans. They then come out on a belt, from which the small bags are filled by operators at a half-dozen openings on each side. Each bag, when filled, is slid on to a small platform-scale, where a girl adds or subtracts a potato to make the correct weight and seals the bag with gummed paper. The bags then move on a belt to the packer, who packs eight bags in a square, pasteboard carton.

"The Rindge Company has put on an advertising campaign in the local papers, emphasizing the washing and consumer-package features. Apparently a fairly steady but far from sensational demand has developed for potatoes packed in this way."

12b. FROST IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

Heavy frost on the morning of December 17 covered Winter Garden and Laredo areas, damaging remaining tomato crop 85% and killing peppers, eggplant, beans and other tender fall vegetables. However, harvesting of all of these crops was nearing completion prior to the frost and total damage is not great. Cabbage, spinach, onions, beets, carrots and other winter vegetables are not damaged and cooler weather may prove beneficial.
(from report by G. D. Clark)

13b. IMPORTANT DEFINITION OF "GREENS"

Beginning January 1, shipment reports are being obtained on "greens," and the question has been raised as to just what commodities are to be included under this classification. Only those leafy vegetables which are ordinarily cooked in preparation for use as greens are to be included, such as kale, turnip tops, Italian sprouting broccoli, broccoli greens (seven-topped turnips), mustard greens, beet greens, dandelion greens, swiss chard, etc. Spinach, of course, would be included under this classification but is reported separately.

Vegetables such as chicory, endive, escarole, anise, and others of this class, which might be termed "salad vegetables" and which are ordinarily used uncooked, are not to be included under this classification of "greens." Parsley also is not to be included.

All market-station men should make certain that this classification is followed in unload reports.

14b. COLD WEATHER AFFECTS CALIFORNIA CITRUS CROPS

The following press item was released on December 31:-

"The low temperatures that settled upon northern and central California since a few days before Christmas have very likely caused appreciable damage to the unharvested citrus crops in these areas. While the cold weather continues, any attempt to measure the extent of damage would be pure guesswork. The State and Federal Departments of Agriculture, through the cooperative crop-reporting service at Sacramento, stand ready to carefully investigate the situation at the earliest practicable moment. Experience has proven the impossibility of preparing intelligent estimates of the damage until at least 10 days following the termination of the low temperatures.

"Coldest weather has been experienced in the northern and central California citrus areas, where Navel oranges predominate. It is estimated that 85% of the Navel crop in those areas had already been shipped. Valencia groves in the same areas have been seriously damaged, where unheated. Little damage has yet been recorded in southern counties.

"Current unofficial reports of damage cannot be confirmed or denied at this time. It may be said, however, that these usually tend to be too greatly influenced by panicky first-impressions. Unless intense and prolonged cold actually stops the tree functions, there is always considerable recovery of fruit thought to be damaged. In addition, more of the groves are now equipped with heaters than during previous freezes. Unless there is positive and extended freezing condition, the damage will be very spotted in the various areas, affected by such influences as air-drainage, dry climatic conditions and application of irrigation water."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	May 1
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 15
			Celery	Sept. 3	Jan. 15
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept.23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block.	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept.11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House.	894	C. D. Schoolcraft	Potatoes	Sept.15	Mar. 28
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept.15	Apr. 15
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	Apr. 15
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Mar. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 1
			Tomatoes	Feb. 1	May 1
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	B. E. Surry	Lettuce	Dec. 1	Jan. 10
PLANT CITY, FLA.**	850	R. M. Peterson	Strbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce Bldg.	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 5	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 16	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 16	May 15
			Onions	Mar. 23	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters' Hotel Bldg.	933	L. T. Kirby L. H. Howard	Lettuce	Jan. 5	Mar. 21

** State cooperating. * Reports discontinued.

R. H. Lamb in San Francisco
J. B. Owens in Atlanta
H. E. Rutland on leave at Presque Isle, Me.
W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING NOVEMBER, 1930

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1929	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total Fees
Atlanta	76	51	2	0	$ 387.14
Baltimore	49	43	0	1	207.34
Boston	227	202	31	1	877.52
Buffalo	14	21	1	0	45.50
Chicago	330	287	4	3	1,702.10
Cincinnati	65	43	0	1	394.43
Cleveland	8	77	0	0	48.55
Columbus	25	37	0	0	105.32
Denver	29	27	1	0	117.00
Detroit	108	38	0	0	448.70
Ft. Worth	33	30	0	0	110.00
Harrisburg	6	0	2	3	28.44
Houston	35	39	0	0	154.38
Indianapolis	28	33	0	0	129.52
Jacksonville	36	23	1	0	178.11
Kansas City	66	89	12	0	331.79
Los Angeles	10	21	6	0	35.50
Memphis	44	42	34	0	185.00
Milwaukee	87	45	2	0	351.29
Minneapolis	23	17	0	0	123.50
Newark	102	80	0	0	416.59
New Haven	50	44	7	0	54.91
New Orleans	164	250	53	0	433.49
New York	786	905	44	6	3,051.51
Norfolk	27	10	13	0	115.81
Omaha	18	17	0	0	110.68
Philadelphia	302	303	62	0	1,043.00
Pittsburgh	118	105	5	1	508.72
Portland	14	8	1	0	80.50
Providence	29	27	0	0	130.80
Rochester	8	-	0	0	34.00
St. Louis	75	80	0	0	413.15
Salt Lake City	4	3	0	0	13.00
San Diego	0	1	0	0	-
San Francisco	18	13	3	0	110.04
Seattle	0	0	0	0	28.00
Springfield	126	27	11	2	578.83
Toledo	10	22	0	0	39.50
Trenton	4	21	0	0	18.00
Washington	66	41	1	6	324.52
Wilkes-Barre	15	13	1	3	71.24
Total	3,235	3,135	297	27	$13,537.42

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:- Total 1,805: 1,446 Nickel Plate: 62 B. & O. R.R. 26 Erie: 75 for Penna. R.R.; 103 for Federal Cold Storage; 93 grade inspections.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING NOVEMBER, 1930

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

SYMBOLS
N - NAVY
M - MARINE CORPS

STATIONS	Fruits and vegetables PASSED N	M	Fruits and vegetables REJECTED N	M	TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED N	M	"Cuts" made to comply with specifications N	M	Items Billed Short-weight N	M
CHARLESTON	297053	0	23815	0	320868	0	5	0	0	0
GREAT LAKES	129062	0	44036	0	173098	0	11333	0	0	0
NEW YORK	426928	57537	16169	276	443097	57813	0	0	0	0
NORFOLK	100605	0	0	0	100605	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	364656	19690	15293	0	379949	19690	898	39	0	0
SAN DIEGO	737422	41029	18482	282	755904	41311	6476	398	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	475804	50000	68000	0	543804	50000	0	0	0	0
SAN PEDRO	558517	0	2002	0	560519	0	119	0	0	0
VALLEJO	391353	0	22514	0	413867	0	30	0	0	0
WASHINGTON	13981	0	510	0	14491	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3495381	168256	210821	558	3706202	168814	18861	437	0	0

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD

NEW YORK	10978	400	11378	0	0
NORFOLK	9375	3150	12525	0	0
TOTAL	20353	3550	23903	0	0

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL

CHICAGO	40923	4800	45723	0	0
MILWAUKEE	14806	550	15356	0	0
NEW YORK	119016	18936	137952	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	33449	9025	42474	0	0
TOTAL	208194	33311	241505	0	0

The New York office also inspected the following:	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	59932	207834	4613
Munson S.S. Line	8783	63923	272
Dollar S.S. Line	5077	13850	300
American France Line	3951	20737	40
American Diamond Line	5574	28639	80
American India Line	3527	13645	0
American Brazil Line	1183	6946	0
Total	88027	355574	5305

The San Pedro office also inspected the following: 4,413 lbs. bread, 5,853 lbs. butter, 515 lbs. cheese; Vallejo office inspected 25,169 lbs. bread, 60 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House, P.O.Box 190, Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 1	Feb. 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 1
VIRGINIA:	F. S. Kinsey, P.O. Box 361, Winchester, Va.	Apples	Sept. 1	Feb. 15
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine.	Potatoes	Sept. 1	Apr. 1
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Sweet-potatoes	Sept. 1	Mar. 1
		Citrus	Nov. 5	Mar. 1
		Vegetables	Nov. 5	Mar. 1
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas.	Citrus	Oct. 1	Mar. 1
		Vegetables	Nov. 20	Mar. 1
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.	Fruits & vegetables	Oct. 27	Feb. 1
ARIZONA:	E. L. Ruch, 615 Security Bldg., Phoenix, Arizona.	Lettuce	Nov. 10	Feb. 1
	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona.	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1

REPORTS regarding Ohio shipping-point inspections can be obtained by addressing M. W. Baker, at our Columbus office.

Indiana shipping-point inspection reports can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Court House, Warsaw, Indiana.

Reports regarding shipping-point inspections of Tennessee sweet-potatoes can be obtained from Nelson B. Rue, Division of Markets, Nashville.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING CHANGE IN LANGUAGE OF GRADE STATEMENTS

Since the issuance of Memorandum No. 71 on December 22, some questions have arisen concerning the proper grade statements to make in cases involving freezing which occurred in transit. For example: a car of lettuce or some other commodity, which was certified as showing a certain percentage of U. S. No. 1 quality at point of origin, may arrive at destination showing transit freezing. In such a case the freezing injury should be reported in the usual way under "Condition." If the lot was certified at shipping point as"85% of U. S. No. 1 quality" and receiving-point inspection shows the same percentage in the crates which show no freezing injury, the following form of grade statement should be made: "85% of stock is of U. S. No. 1 quality except in those crates showing freezing-injury noted above." There may be cases similar to this when field freezing is also present, and, when this kind of freezing injury is reported as a grade defect, the grade statement should read as follows: "85% of stock is of U. S. No. 1 quality except in those crates showing transit freezing as noted above."

A car of potatoes which graded U. S. No. 1 at shipping point may arrive on the market showing transit freezing in the bottom layer of sacks. After the location and distribution of the freezing injury has been described under "Condition," the following form of grade statement would be appropriate "Stock grades U. S. No. 1 except in those sacks showing freezing injury as noted above." This statement means that the potatoes in the upper layers of sacks grade U. S. No. 1 and in the bottom layer fail to grade on account of freezing injury.

When freezing injury is do distributed as to indicate that it occurred before shipment, it should be reported after "Quality" in connection with the other grade defects. A car of potatoes which shows grade defects in excess of the tolerance and also shows transit freezing should be reported below grade and no mention made of transit freezing in the grade statement. Likewise a car which is below grade on account of scab, cuts, second-growth, etc., and shows decay in addition should be reported accordingly, without specifically mentioning decay in the grade statement.

2c. ALKALINE DEPOSIT ON WASHINGTON APPLES

W. A. Hilgeson, of the Wenatchee office, wrote as follows to the New York City office in a letter of December 22, and the information is being passed along for other inspectors:-

"In regard to the apples showing blotches of what appears to be spray-residue, our experience is that this deposit is not spray-residue but is an alkaline deposit which is left on the apples as they pass through the rinse-water. If these blotches are not too severe, the oiled wraps have a tendency to absorb a considerable portion of this deposit. If the deposit is heavy and somewhat gummy, it seems that the oiled wraps have little effect and the blotches will show distinctly at almost any future date.

(continued over)

In regard to some houses using oiled rags or rolls to cover up this blotching, that practice was not used this season in this district to my knowledge, though last season one of the houses in the lower end of the district did use oiled rolls for a period to neutralize the excessive alkaline deposit on the apples. The oil used is a preparation very similar to that used on Brogdexed apples."

3c. GIFT-BOXES OF WASHINGTON APPLES SOLD IN BOSTON

In reply to an inquiry from our office, W. H. Steinbauer, in charge of the Boston inspection office, wrote the following letter on December 18:-

"The 2,695-box load of Washington Delicious apples, mentioned in Division Letter of December 12, was sold by Spooner-Drake Co. of Boston. The car was unloaded Sunday, December 14, and the last lot was disposed of this morning. The load arrived in good condition, as there were only four ullages. Mr. Bartlett Spooner advised that the apples were sold in small lots through the regular trade channels to jobbers and retailers, and moved very slowly due to the fact that there were no special features to make them more desirable than any other apples of Extra Fancy grade. The apples showed sufficient color for the grade but there was no uniformity of high color to create a demand for this special 'quarter' or 'gift' package. Then again, the pack in most boxes was only fairly tight, with some barely that, and quite a few apples showed noticeable bruises. Some apples showed deep stem-punctures. I sampled a few boxes and found the apples to be exactly as described by Mr. Spooner. To sum up his contention, - and I believe he is right, - it seems that, in order to create a demand for a package of this type, the apples should show: uniformly high color, the lowest possible minimum of defects, and the pack should be at least nearly tight. The package is small enough at best, and anything that is suggestive of a slightly slack pack gives a buyer the impression that he is not getting his money's worth.

"Incidentally, Spooner-Drake Co. advised the shipper of the car's shortcomings and the contract price was reduced. The shipper advised that this was the first carload of this type package shipped and was somewhat in the nature of an experiment."

SEE Inspection Tables on Pages 12, 13 and 14 of this D.L.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman will address the meeting of the Boston Market Gardeners' Association, in Boston, on January 3 on the subject:- "Future of Western Large-Scale Truck-Crop Production and What It Means to the Eastern Grower." On January 8 and 9, he will discuss respectively: "The Provisions and Operations of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act" and "State and Federal Apple Grades, Past, Present and Future" at meetings of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Worcester, Mass.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, went on annual leave just prior to Christmas and will not return until about January 5.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Mrs. F. B. Parsons, who has been stenographer in Mr. Boree's office for quite a number of months, left the service, effective December 31. Miss Mabelle Lewis, formerly in Mrs. Mills' office, has been advanced to the position vacated by Mrs. Parsons.

A. S. Mason, who has been assisting with inspection work in Pittsburgh, will return to his headquarters in New York City early next week.

S. N. Green, who has been making trips from Chicago to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., will now be located permanently at Great Lakes and should be addressed there in the future.

J. B. Owens, who was on leave in South Carolina, has now gone to the Atlanta office of the Market News Service.

W. D. Googe has gone from the Fort Worth office to Brownsville, Texas, where he will begin the usual market reports on vegetables next Monday, January 5.

R. M. Peterson should now be addressed at Plant City, Fla., where he has begun issuing market reports on strawberries and vegetables.

Sympathy is extended L. S. Fenn, in charge of the Salt Lake City office, in the death of his father at Spokane, Wash., on December 22. Mr. Fenn was absent from Salt Lake a few days to attend the funeral.

Par. 4a in the last Division Letter mentioned the post-card reports of shipments, which for many years have been going to our Spokane office, before being sent to Washington D.C. A change in arrangements has been effected whereby these mail reports will now come directly to the Washington office. No change has been made regarding the similar reports which go first to the Los Angeles office.

Practically all of the offices of the Market News Service published attractive Christmas decorations on their mimeographed market reports just before Christmas. J. G. Scott, of the Philadelphia office, prepared a neat card by the photographic process, the card showing a large basket filled with numerous vegetables and conveying holiday-greetings.

F. G. Robb expects to leave Washington about January 7 and travel to Phoenix, Arizona, for the purpose of attending and addressing a meeting of The Western Fruit Jobbers Association of America, January 13 to 16, on the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. He will also address members of the trade at Atlanta, Ga., on January 8 and at New Orleans on January 9 while enroute to Phoenix. Mr. Robb will later proceed to California, where he will spend a few days and will probably stop in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in Colorado on the return trip. On December 16 Mr. Robb made a trip to Baltimore for the purpose of discussing the P.A.C. Act before the local branch of the National League of Commission Merchants and other dealers.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

C. H. Walleigh, who for the past months has been dividing his time between Center Market and the Licensing work under the P.A.C. Act, was officially transferred to the latter work on January 1. Center Market was closed on December 31, and will be razed to make way for Government building-projects.

W. L. Evans will address a meeting of the Maryland State Horticultural Society at Baltimore on January 7. He will explain the provisions of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

W. R. Stay, cooperative inspector in California, is joint-author of an article on Coachella Valley Bermuda Onions in the California Dept. of Agriculture monthly bulletin for November, 1930.

O. G. Strauss, Federal Supervising Inspector in Florida, moved his headquarters some time ago from Winter Haven to Orlando, and should now be addressed at P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.

NOTE: To conserve filing-space in Washington, it will be necessary to throw away all the surplus copies of the D.L. for year 1927. If any office lacks file-copies of the 1927 Division Letters, request for the missing copies should be made at once to Washington.

W. F. Allewelt, in charge of the Federal-State Shipping-Point Inspection Service in California, spent the third week of December at points in Imperial Valley and attending the California Fruit Growers' Convention at Los Angeles.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 2. January 9, 1931.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication.

1a. ADMINISTRATION OF PRODUCE AGENCY ACT AGAIN COMPLIMENTED

The following letter has been received concerning the successful handling of complaints by C. R. Newton and O. N. Harsha under the Produce Agency Act:

"You will be relieved to know that the Directors of the _____ Association finally distributed the railroad claims. We received ours today through our tennant, Mr. _____. He, Mr. _____, and the others received their checks Wednesday, 24th inst. We all agree that it was only through your efforts that these monies were returned to us, and we appreciate greatly what you have done.

"So far as the other restitution sums are concerned, nothing more has been done. None of us have heard from the Association or its members directly, and we know it is only because your Bureau is helping us that we will get anything at all. However, we are greatful for what we have received in claims. It has at least put new hope in us that the larger sums may be forthcoming soon. We shall all be glad when the matter is finally settled.

"With thanks for your interest and trusting the coming year will bring to you and yours full measure of health, happiness and prosperity."

A few weeks ago, The B.A.E. News, published the following item:-

A shipper, whose complaint under the Produce Agency Act, resulted in his receiving $996.40 from the defendant, in full settlement of his account, writes the Division of Fruits and Vegetables: "This is to advise that _____ has paid his account with us in full. I wish to thank you for the assistance you have rendered us in making this settlement. If it was not for the Produce Agency Act, and the way it is enforced by the Department, we would have been compelled to go to Pittsburgh and start litigation that no one could tell when and where it would have finished."

2a. POTATO FUTURES ON CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE

"The Daily Digest" of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture contained the following item on January 3:-

"Trading in future deliveries of potatoes will begin on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange on January 12, according to a Chicago dispatch today. The first trading will be in Idaho Russets for March delivery. It is planned later to add a round-white potato delivery. The United States No. 1 grading will be used, but with a few changes, making the Exchange requirements slightly higher."

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MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. AN ADDITION TO WIRE-REPORTS OF SHIPMENTS

The list of products, as published in Par. 4a of the D.L. for December 19, 1930, was incomplete. In addition to the commodities listed in that article, turnips (and rutabagas) are included among the products on which telegraphic reports of shipments were begun on January 1, 1931. Mail reports have been received for many years on turnips and rutabagas. These will be continued but, in addition, daily wire-reports will now be received on those products.

2b. LIGHT MOVEMENT OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA VEGETABLES

The very high price of snap beans in Florida is mentioned by V. H. Nicholson in his letter of January 3 from Miami:-

"Shipments of South Florida vegetables have been very light this week. The movement of beans, tomatoes and peppers was retarded by the rains and cold weather, as well as by the dull markets during the holiday period. With the exception of returns for beans, prices have been very low and the f.o.b. markets dull.

"Shipments of snap beans have averaged close to five cars daily. Because of the cold weather and rains, quality has been variable and there has been a wide range in the stock offered at Pompano this week. Until yesterday, most of the beans were of only fair quality, but shippers now report some improvement.

"Prices have been the highest since the fall of 1928. On Monday, Bountifuls sold mostly around $6, with a few fine quality as high as $8. But yesterday the same variety sold mostly at $7-$8, with a few sales as high as $9 per bushel hamper. However, it is probable that prices will be somewhat lower next week, as shipments are expected to increase slightly.

"The tomato market has been practically demoralized. Nearly all the shipments this week have been consigned, because buyers were afraid of the quality. Shipments have increased somewhat, but are still rather light. Several shippers are expecting better conditions to prevail next week, as most of the poor-quality has been moved.

"During the last few days, there has been considerable activity on the part of tomato growers south of here. Mr. Steffani, County Agricultural Agent at Homestead, reports that several growers are cleaning-off new land and planting a considerable number of seed-beds. According to his reports, the acreage this spring will probably be increased over that of last spring, but most of the acreage will be planted a little later than usual and the early crop may be rather light.

"Carlot shipments of peppers have been limited. However, the prices improved only slightly. Most lots at Pompano have sold around $1.50 for Fancy stock, which is an increase of about 50¢ over the market of a few days ago. Yesterday shipments were much heavier, and prices will probably be down again in a few days."

2½b. RECENT MARKETING SUMMARY

A summary on "Marketing Florida Strawberries in 1930," by R. M. Peterson, has recently been distributed.

3b. WISCONSIN POTATO PRICES ADVANCE

The following letter of January 2 was received from C. D. Schoolcraft, at Waupaca, Wis.:

"Potato prices advanced after Christmas from a level of $1.15-$1.25 to a range the first part of this week of $1.35-$1.40 per 100 pounds of U. S. No. 1 quality. It must be remembered that there is considerable stock being shipped ungraded, and some that does make the grade but is still very ordinary, and there is really no market on this class of potatoes. Some sales of such cars are reported as much as 15¢-20¢ below the market on good stock, and the poorest of these cars are practically all consigned or rolled for sale on track in Chicago. The price to growers on bulk stock has strengthened to $1 per cwt. at nearly all points, but deliveries have been light since Christmas.

"Shipments from Wisconsin through December 31 were 4,850 cars, as against 7,600 by the same time last season. This would indicate that a larger percentage of the crop is being held in the State now than was the case last year. Estimates place the holdings of merchantable potatoes between 6,000 and 6,500 cars. The greater portion of this stock is in the hands of farmers, and such is likely to be the case unless the market turns sharply upward. Dealers are not inclined to buy much beyond their immediate needs, and generally through this section they are rather pessimistic about the future market prospects.

"Distribution has ranged a little further eastward during the past two weeks, largely as a result of the strengthening of Maine prices, and for the first time this year Wisconsin potatoes are moving in quantity into Detroit and a few into Cleveland."

4b. IDAHO POTATO MARKET DEVELOPS WEAKNESS

In a letter of January 2 from Idaho Falls, L. C. Tate sent the following report on the Idaho potato situation:-

"The potato market developed weakness today, following the rise in temperature that prevails over the State. A light but lasting snowstorm fell in all parts of the Snake River Valley but, with temperatures of over 20° for the first time in weeks, hauling was quite active. Dealers look forward to liberal offerings from farms during the coming week, but most of them feel that movement will soon slow down again because of the low prices which are in prospect.

"The market weakness here today is not entirely a natural condition. About four weeks ago the dealers in the lower valley organized and adopted a resolution to discontinue all consignments of potatoes to terminal markets. A short time later, a meeting was held in the upper valley for the same purpose. This action has been published in the trade newspapers on several occasions, so that it has become quite generally known to the outside trade, irrespective of the information they may have had through private correspondence. This has resulted in a sort-of deadlock between shippers and terminal market brokers."

4½b. LIST OF FIELD STATIONS

Enclosed with this D.L. is a list of the temporary field stations of the Market News Service which wre opened during the year 1930. It would be well to keep this list for future reference.

5b. PEAK MOVEMENT COMPLETED OF ARIZONA WINTER LETTUCE

On December 30, B. E. Surry wrote as follows in a letter from Phoenix, Arizona:-

"The peak in shipments of Arizona lettuce was reached on December 27, when 176 cars were moved, 151 of these originating in the Salt River Valley. The heaviest shipment last season occurred on December 28, 1929, when 139 cars were shipped from the State.

"Present prospects are for slightly over 3,000 cars from the Valley by January 10, with Yuma and Casa Grande sections bringing the total for the State to approximately 4,000 cars. There is still plenty of lettuce in the fields, but the quantity harvested after the first of the year will depend upon the condition of eastern markets and the increase in shipments from Imperial Valley.

"During the past week, shippers have been troubled with frost-damage, which has injured the appearance of practically all shipments. Solidity has been fairly good but sizes are generally smaller, due to the cold weather. Slightly more than half of the shipments are made up of five-dozens, with sixes composing about 5% of the total, and the remainder fours.

"Cash buying has been very light, owing to quality and to the prices quoted in the eastern markets. Most of the large shippers have rolled practically all of their output, and either sold by wire or consigned their shipments. They have been reluctant to sell at any price quoted by the cash buyers. Between 80% and 90% of the cars shipped last week were rolled unsold. The cash f.o.b. market weakened after Christmas from a range of $1.65-$1.75 to $1.25-$1.50 on Sunday, December 28. At present, the market is very dull, with a few sales being made around $1.25-$1.35 per crate of generally-good quality."

6b. MAINE POTATO PRICES UP AND DOWN

W. D. Hull sent the following information from Presque Isle in a letter of January 5:-

"The Maine potato market is reacting from the heavy offerings during the early part of last week. Mild weather and a $2 street price, for which the growers had been waiting, made a temptation which they could not resist and, as a result, haulings were very liberal, especially to the sidings at outlying country points. On Wednesday, many of the shippers dropped the street price to $1.90 per barrel. This had the desired result and haulings were sharply reduced, giving the shippers an opportunity to handle their accumulated stocks.

"Terminal markets were off about 5¢ a sack on Wednesday and wire-inquiry was not so brisk, although stock continued to move quite freely on an f.o.b. basis of $1.40 sacked per cwt. Throughout the latter part of the week, city dealers were offering $1.35 per cwt. but no sales were reported at that price. Local dealers would not accept any order for less than $1.40. Each shipper seemed to be willing to do less business and let someone else be the first to accept the lower offers.

"This slight weakening of the potato market was not unexpected by the trade. In fact, many thought it would go lower than it did. However, they believe it to be merely a temporary condition and expect the market to rally within a few days."

7b. COLORADO POTATO MOVEMENT HEAVIER BUT ONIONS LIGHTER THAN LAST YEAR

The following letter of January 3 was received from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office:-

"Potato prices in Colorado advanced slightly as the year closed, reaching the top in San Luis Valley of $1 per cwt. on No. 1 Brown Beautys and $1.05-$1.10 on McClures. However, a weakness has developed the past two days, with prices 5¢-10¢ lower than those prevailing before New Year's Day.

"As anticipated last week, shipments from northern Colorado increased materially, reaching the highest day's movement on late potatoes from that section this season with 34 cars out January 2. Prices advanced more rapidly in the northern district early this week than at other points in Colorado, with some dealers offering $1 or more per cwt. for U. S. No. 1 stock. Most growers were offered 90¢ for potatoes as they lay in the cellar, without sorting, for immediate shipment December 31 and January 1. But since outside demand did not keep pace with higher prices at shipping-points, dealers were offering about 10¢ per cwt. less Friday than on the previous high mark. Some shippers in the State are pessimistic in their view and believe that, since the January rise in market failed to sustain the slightly higher level, prices will now drop back to their low point of a month ago.

"The Carbondale and Montrose sections have shipped slightly more cars the past week than in previous periods this fall, but the movement was still comparatively light. They have thrice-weekly train service in the Montrose section now, so that onion and potato shipments vary considerably on the alternate days. Colorado has now shipped over 10,200 cars of potatoes, compared with 9,500 at this time a year ago. Many dealers still believe that the State will ship between 19,500 and 20,000 cars for the 1930-31 season.

"The onion movement has maintained approximately the same proportionate rate of shipment throughout the fall and winter. The Arkansas Valley has now loaded 722 cars, compared with 1,208 at this time last season and a final movement of 2,552 cars. Since many shippers hold that not over 600 more cars will be moved from this area, it is probable that the season total will range between 1,200 and 1,300 cars from the Arkansas Valley. On the Western Slope, the market has been dull to weak. Growers were receiving 25¢ per cwt. for bulk Yellow Danvers, U. S. No. 1 quality. Carlot sales of 65% two-inches and up were made at 55¢-60¢ per cwt., with demand very slow. The movement from the Western Slope is now considerably under one-half that of last season, with 293 cars moved to Friday night, compared with 707 at this time last year and a final of 1,295 cars. In northern Colorado, the discrepancy is even greater, where 28 cars have moved to date, compared to 91 at this time last season. According to the reports of dealers and warehouse-men that the shrinkage in storage has been heavier than anticipated, it is quite probable that the final Colorado shipments will remain in the approximate proportion of present shipments to last year's movement."

8b. WESTERN NEW YORK PRODUCE MARKET DULL

The condition of the fruit and vegetable market in western New York is described by R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office, in a letter dated January 6, as follows:-

"Marketing activity has shown considerable dullness during the past seven days. Practically all lines moved slowly at about unchanged prices.

(continued over)

"Celery met with a moderate demand, but the offerings were light and the quality of most of the shipments only fair to ordinary. The latest report of holdings on January 2 indicates approximately 145 cars yet in storage. However, most dealers are either cleaned-up or have only a small quantity of celery to offer. This would indicate that most of the remaining celery is in the hands of a few operators, who bought some time ago and are holding the stock in these storages for their terminal trade. After this week, the New York celery deal will have become a matter of history. Florida and California will take care of the requirements for the balance of the winter and spring.

"There is a general complaint among the dealers over lack of business in apples. Even at the low prices prevailing, only very limited quantities of fruit can be sold. The export movement is increasing, but the majority of the shipments consist of consignments rather than of cars sold on an f.o.b. basis.

"Cabbage constitutes a greater volume than any other commodity now moving from the western New York territory. Shipments last week averaged close to 70 cars daily. The demand has been only fair. There has been some accumulation of loaded cars on track at shipping-points, and, with the limited number of f.o.b. sales, shippers have had to take advantage of all market information available, in order to select markets for consigning. Shipments to date have totaled almost 9,100 cars, compared with 8,800 to the same time last season. There is much speculation as to the quantity remaining in storage, various estimates placing the amount at 3,000 to 3,500 cars.

"Onions and carrots continue to remain in the inactive class. This is more true in the case of carrots. However, onions have sold very slowly and the market has continued dull for several weeks. Storage holdings for both onions and carrots are being reduced slowly, with the probability that heavy supplies during the late winter will work as a deterent toward the realization of any high prices.

"Potatoes employ the interest of a large number of growers and shippers in this territory, but the movement by rail does not assume important proportions. Of course, the shipments are so stretched-out that the total assumes several thousand cars for the season, although the daily loadings rarely exceed 35 or 40 cars. The prevailing f.o.b. price centers mostly around $2.35 for carlots of 150-pound sacks of Round Whites, U. S. No. 1 grade. Quotations are made regularly on the basis of U. S. No. 1 grade, although it is generally known that considerable of the shipments so quoted did not or would not pass inspection for that grade. Shippers in western New York place considerable importance in and watch with keen interest the Presque Isle f.o.b. prices and conditions. The Maine lead is quickly followed by New York shippers. Growers are obtaining mostly 75¢, bulk per bushel, for their tubers at this time."

9b. LATE NEWS ON MICHIGAN ONIONS AND POTATOES

On January 3, R. E. Keller wrote as follows from Grand Rapids:-

"After the Christmas holidays, the onion dealers were anticipating an increased demand and a strengthening in prices, similar to the improvement after Thanksgiving, but so far the expected increase has failed to materialize. As a matter of fact, a survey of the late-crop storage onion situation gives little hope for any improvement. Only about 12 weeks

remain for shipping the balance of the crop, of which the shippers estimate over 2,100 cars for Michigan alone. Thus, Michigan will have to load out approximately 30 cars daily for the remainder of the season, to move her crop. Taking into consideration the heavy holdings in the other producing centers, it appears almost certain that the shippers will have to continually force their stock on the market, to move the remainder of their holdings, and thus will eliminate any substantial price-increase. In fact, many of the shippers are voicing the opinion that a lot of the onions will never get to the market.

"Most of the storage stock is in the hands of growers, who are now becoming a little anxious and are selling or consigning. Also a lot of the produce is in the hands of cash-buyers and shippers, who have been waiting for higher prices to unload their purchases. The cash-operators are getting nervous and some of them are offering stock at the present market price. Most of the onions were bought at prices ranging 65¢-$1 per cwt. from the farmer in bulk, a price higher than the present carlot market, when storage and sacks are added-in. So, a lot of the operators stand to lose heavily, if the market does not pick-up.

"Potatoes are still moving in very light quantities, the total carlot movement to date being 759 cars. Prices advanced sharply just after Christmas, but the advance did not seem to affect the loadings much. Michigan just has not the potatoes to ship this season."

10b. FRENCH ENDIVE GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

In writing recently to a correspondent in Manitoba, Canada, the following information on French endive was included in a letter of C. J. Hansen, of the San Francisco office:-

"French endive is grown around San Francisco, chiefly in the vicinity of Half Moon Bay and Watsonville. It is produced quite extensively in these areas. Watsonville ships French endive in large quantities to many of the eastern cities. It sells by the pound, the wholesale price ranging 25¢-35¢ at all times. Most of the stock retails at 40¢-50¢ per pound. The demand for this commodity is noticeably limited on the San Francisco market.

"We also have the 'chicory endive', or 'chicory lettuce' as it is commonly called. It is produced in practically every district where lettuce is grown and is usually sold by the crate, the wholesale price ranging 75¢-$1 per lettuce crate."

11b. APPLE VENDER PROFITS

A Philadelphia dispatch today (Jan. 6) says that 2,600 street-corner venders of apples realized a profit of $54,344.45 between Nov. 24 and Dec. 27, a firm of public accountants reported yesterday to Mayor Mackey. During that time 25,394 boxes of apples, in addition to 1,383 boxes of tangerines, were sold by jobless men and women to whom city permits were issued.

MEN IN CHARGE of offices, especially those in which there are a large number of employees, are requested to observe the names of individuals, to whom the D.L. is sent each week. Advise us of necessary changes.

12b. UNLOAD REPORTS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

There are probably but few who realize the great importance with which our unload reports have come to the regarded in recent years. They are used very extensively, not only by the produce trade, carriers, traffic agencies, etc., but also by a large number of research, investigational and publicity organizations, business agencies and commercial concerns. So great has been the demand for such information that, as soon as possible, we expect to obtain reports from several additional cities and for an increased number of commodities.

In connection with the monthly unload reports, which are prepared by the various market stations, complaints are frequently received because of the variations in their form and content. Similarly, we are asked whether certain valuable features of some reports cannot be included in others.

In view of the widespread use which is made of these unload figures, it seems advisable that they be presented with a greater degree of uniformity than exists at present. To that end, all market-station representatives are requested to revise or enlarge their monthly reports, so that they will conform to the following suggestions:

Probably the greatest value of unloads is in making comparisons with the corresponding figures for previous months and years. Comparisons with the previous month are usually not as important as those with the same month of previous years, due to the changing list of commodities on the markets as the season advances. In addition to such monthly comparisons, it is also valuable to show totals of each commodity for the year to date, as compared with one or more previous years. Presumably the previous records are available to those interested in the unload figures, but it is much more convenient to have such data all presented on each report.

There are three groupings of the unload figures which we believe should appear on each report:-

1. Totals by commodities, with comparisons with the corresponding month of the previous year and the totals for the year to date. It seems to be preferable to give this first place in the report, since for many purposes it it only these totals which are desired.
2. Totals by States of origin, with comparisons.
3. Detailed list, showing States of origin of each commodity during the current month, supplemented by a comparison with the same month of the previous year.

Arrivals and diversions may be included, whenever such information is of value. Truck receipts, of course, are to be included with the unload reports wherever available. These may be combined with the carlot figures to show total supplies, but separate lists and comparisons of the carlot figures should also be given.

Such a program will add materially to some of the present unload reports, but it is believed that this is justified by their importance. After the arrangement is once worked-out, the inclusion of comparative figures from previous reports will not add greatly to the work of preparation.

A set of November unload reports from the various offices is being mailed under separate cover to each market station, and a study of these will illustrate the types of comparisons and the arrangements referred-to above. It is hoped that these suggestions will be incorporated in all January reports. Each office is again requested to send to Washington 30 extra copies of the January unloads, in order that a further comparison of ideas and results can be made. These extra reports should be mailed in a separate envelope and should be addressed to Miss Mabelle Lewis, F. & V. Division.

B. C. BOREE, Specialist in Market News.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. WARNING TO INSPECTORS

Recently the expression of an opinion by an inspector, regarding a diagnosis which was later found to be incorrect, has been misused by the trade. Inspectors must be extremely cautious in their remarks about diseases and injuries, found in shipments of fruits and vegetables. Ability on the part of inspectors to talk intelligently to the trade about the nature and causes of various diseases and injuries is very desirable and tends to increase confidence in the service. There are certain common troubles which are known to everybody in the trade and to all inspectors. On the other hand, there may be forms of decay or other trouble, the nature of which the inspector may feel reasonably sure of, but which he is not prepared to name with certainty. In such cases, he should express no opinions but should inform the applicant that samples are being sent to a pathologist, who will diagnose the trouble, and a report will be given to him as soon as possible. When a disease is encountered, on which reliable information cannot be obtained, the only safe policy to pursue is to describe the nature of the trouble rather fully, without attempting to name it, and so avoid the risk of an incorrect diagnosis.

2c. NET NECROSIS IN MAINE POTATOES

Potatoes from Maine are showing net necrosis again this year, and the question arises as to the degree of this injury permitted in U. S. Grade No. 1. In some markets it has been the policy for some time to allow one-half inch net necrosis in medium-sized potatoes. If, by cutting at the stem-end of the potato, a half-inch slice removes the net necrosis, it should be disregarded, but, if it extends into the potato more than a half-inch, it should be scored as a grade defect.

3c. CALIFORNIA NOTES

The following items have been taken from California "Inspectors' Notes" issued at Sacramento on December 26 and January 2:-

Up to December 29, about 17 shippers had joined the Imperial Valley Produce Exchange, which is conducting the f.o.b. auction at El Centro. Federal-State inspection is used on all cars of lettuce loaded by this organization. Thirty-four cars were certified on December 29 and by next week shipments will be going strong. According to reports, the frost has done some damage but not as much as was expected, considering the low temperatures the past week. The freezing-injury is pretty well confined to the edges of the wrapper leaves and is easily trimmed off. The No. 6 strain shows no freezing-injury. P. V. Stay, a cooperative Federal-State inspector, is supervising the work of 13 inspectors in Imperial Valley.

The quality of celery in the San Diego district is not as good as the growers and shippers expected. Some fields show considerable pith, while other show worm-injury. The frost has done some damage to some of the fields. About six cars were being certified daily.

Inspections of cauliflower and celery in the Los Angeles district have become light. The inspection force in that territory is down to four men.

(continued over)

Lettuce shipments in the Sacramento district are finished for the season. A few inspections will still be made of carrots and storage pears.

Little activity is expected in the Salinas district until after the middle of January.

The Walnut Grove office in Sacramento County was closed December 22. Freezing weather put the finishing touches to an already "sick"deal. The poor market for celery has not warranted a heavy shipment all season.

4c. INTERESTING REPORT ON MEXICAN TOMATOES

R. H. Bertelson, in charge of inspection of Mexican vegetables at Nogales, Arizona, wrote the following interesting letter on January 3:-

"I have completed my first month of inspection work covering Mexican vegetables here at Nogales. For the month of December, a total of 221 cars was inspected, of which 182 were tomatoes, 35 peas, 2 bell peppers and 2 mixed cars. A year ago, for the corresponding month, about 93 cars were inspected, consisting of 59 tomatoes and 34 peas. To date this season, we have inspected approximately 85% of the tomato crossings. The majority of inspections made on cars here are restricted to the top layer of the load, on account of the cars already being loaded at the time of inspection. However, we have had several cars that were entirely reloaded, so that we could give them an unrestricted inspection.

"Government inspection is becoming more in demand each season. This makes the fourth season that I have been handling the work at Nogales. The first season about 750 cars were inspected. The second, 1,868 cars, while last season 2,004 cars were inspected. Prospects for a good inspection deal again this season are excellent, since practically all of the shippers, who used the inspection service last season, have again given me orders to inspect their cars this year. In addition, several shippers, who did not use the service previously, have given me blanket orders to inspect all their cars crossing this year. I believe that the Perishable Commodities Act is having an influence in bringing some of the shippers into line for inspection, who did not use the service before. Also the new tariff of 3¢ per pound on tomatoes is having a certain amount of influence. The duty on the average carload, at 3¢ per pound, is equal to about $700, and many of the buyers are not taking the chances they did in former years when this extra charge was not involved.

"A heavy rainstorm that occurred in the tomato-producing sections of Mexico about December 10 did considerable damage. Many of the tomatoes arriving since have shown quite a lot of soft, watery stock and an excessive amount of bruising, which I believe is due to the weakened condition of the fruit from the rain. I am advised that there was a light shower about a week later, with cloudy weather following for two or three days. This left a favorable condition for the development of nailhead. At present, many of the cars are showing considerable damage from this cause. The quality arriving to date this season has only been fair.

"It is estimated by the shippers here that there is approximately the same acreage of tomatoes planted this season as last year. However, I do not believe there will be more than 3,000 cars shipped, as compared with about 5,600 cars last season, since there will be a great many more tomatoes culled than in previous years, to compete with the new tariff.

It is estimated that about 30,000 acres are planted to tomatoes this year. Many of the shippers at present are in a very gloomy mood over the outlook for the balance of the season, since the deal so far has not been a financial success to most of them.

"As explained to me by many of the operators here, they figure that the actual cost of tomatoes to them, delivered, is about $2.75 per lug. The cost of growing per lug is figured at 50¢; duty $1; packing charges, shook, drayage, car-strips and bracing material about 47¢; and 87¢ is figured for freight and charges made by the custom brokers for handling the crossings. The delivered price at present is from $2 to $2.75, and, if the market conditions do not improve, shipments no doubt will be light for the time being. This season, probably will prove whether or not Mexico will be able to compete in the production of tomatoes, in spite of the new tariff of 3¢ per pound."

5c. TRENTON OFFICE MOVED TO HISTORIC SITE

W. C. Lynn, cooperative inspector with headquarters at Trenton, N. J., sent the following letter under date of January 6:-

"This is to advise that in the last few days the New Jersey Department of Agriculture gathered its Bureaus from their several places of business in the city, and collectively now occupies the sixth floor of the First Mechanics National Bank, in Trenton. The building is the new home of a century-old institution and is located at One West State Street, on what is referred to as Trenton's 'Corner Historic.'

"Local history lists a number of events of State and national importance occurring on this site, including the following:

1740: And for some years following, the official residence of Lewis Morris, First Royal Governor of the Colony of New Jersey.

1780-81: Convening of the Assembly of the State of New Jersey in the garret of the Thirteen Stars Inn (formerly Governor Morris' residence).

1784-85: The Nation's Capital. Occupation of the French Arms Tavern (formerly Thirteen Stars Inn) by the Continental Congress, after leaving Philadelphia.

1784: Lafayette's farewell to Continental Congress at the French Arms Tavern.

1787: Ratification of the Constitution of the United States by the General Assembly of New Jersey, convened in the Long Room of the French Arms Tavern."

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. IMPORTANT FACTS REGARDING STATE GRADES

In order to assist inspectors in making a correct grade statement, when certifying on the basis of State grades in accordance with examples shown in Inspection Memorandum No. 71, dated December 22, 1930, this explanation will be helpful:-

The following States have State apple grades, containing a statement to the effect that decay or other condition factors which may develop after the apples are packed shall be considered as affecting the condition and not the grade:

Idaho, Maine, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Virginia (when XF, F, and C Grade apples are packed in boxes, baskets and cartons), California (only when apples have been previously inspected and passed for grade).

The Oregon and Washington State grades for pears also contain the same provision as in the case of apples.

Potatoes should be handled on the basis of the U.S. grades, as all States use the U.S. grades.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman is expected back at his desk in Washington this Saturday. He has been in Boston and vicinity since last week.

A. E. Mercker went to Norfolk, Va., and Elizabeth City, N. C., on Tuesday night, to confer with persons interested in the potato situation in eastern States. He returned to Washington yesterday.

J. G. Cross plans to leave Washington about the middle of this month, to be gone until March. He will confer with railroad officials in Texas and all the Pacific Coast States, as well as in Idaho and Colorado, regarding present arrangements for shipment and other reports and regarding plans for future work in behalf of the Division of Dairy and Poultry Products. This will be a joint-trip, partly in the interest of fruit and vegetable reports. Mr. Cross doubtless will visit our market stations and field offices in the Southwest and West on this trip.

H. A. Spilman addressed a meeting of the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association in Baltimore on January 8, held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. He talked on the regulatory work of the Fruit and Vegetable Division.

E. E. Conklin, Jr., of the Chicago inspection office, conferred with inspectors in Detroit on Monday and Tuesday, with those in Cleveland on Wednesday and Thursday, and with the inspector in Columbus on Friday. He expects to return to his headquarters tomorrow morning.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

H. A. Bowers, who has been inspecting supplies for the Navy at Charleston, S.C., the past few months, will return to hsi headquarters in New York City early next week. He probably will stop at the Washington office a short while, en route.

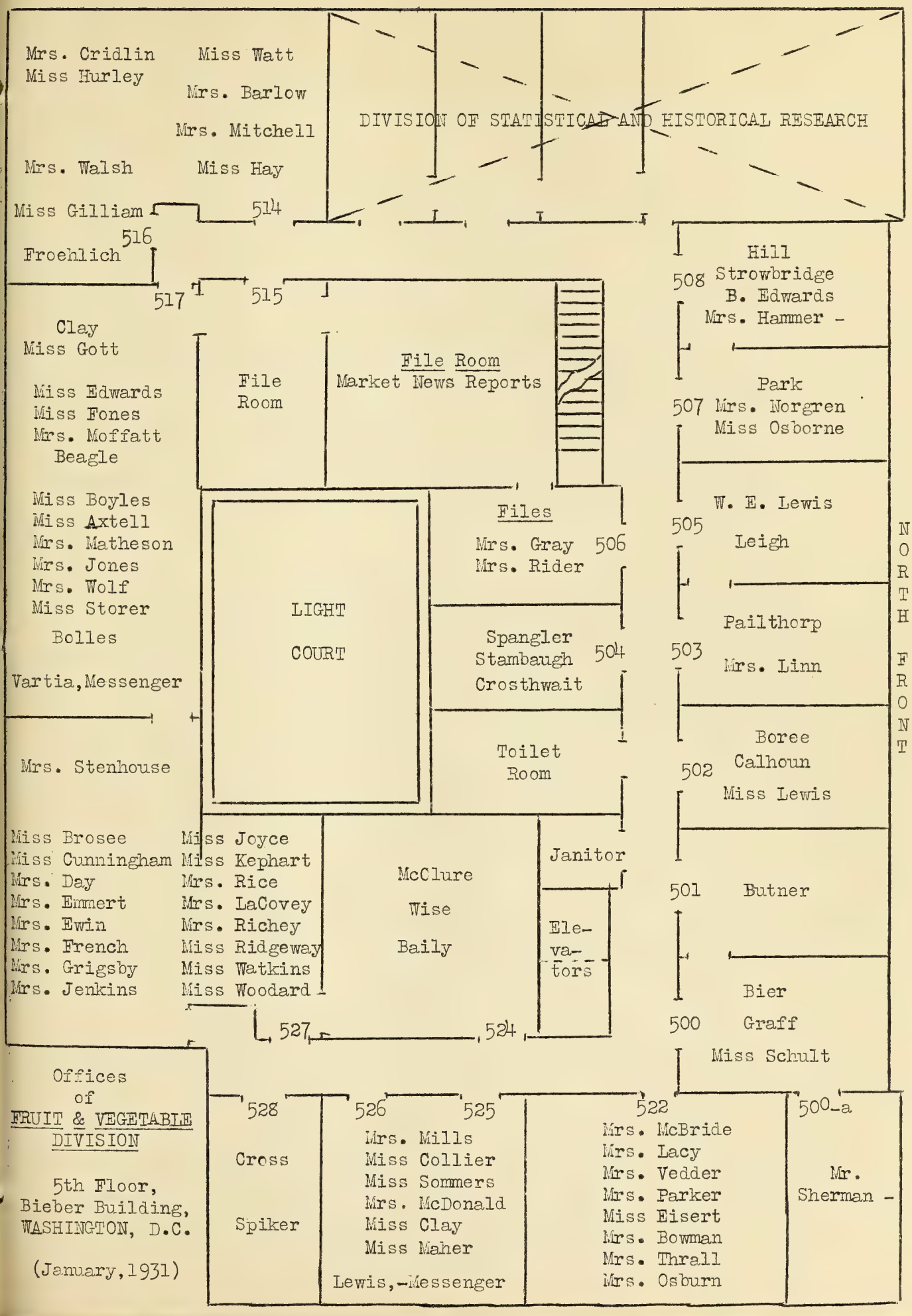
B. H. Rowell, who substituted in the Cincinnati inspection office during the latter part of December, returned to his headquarters in Chicago some days ago.

Lettuce market reports at Phoenix, Arizona, will not be discontinued this Saturday but will be published until next Friday, January 16. This is the only change in the list of temporary field stations of the Market New Service. The list of temporary headquarters of the Inspection Service remains unchanged this week.

R. H. Lamb's address in San Francisco is the Appraiser's Building. He is assisting in the inauguration of the new western radio-service.

B. C. Boree gave a radio talk on "The Citrus Fruit Situation" through Station WRC, Washington, yesterday about 1 o'clock.

The cooperative office of the Inspection Service at Trenton, N.J., has been moved from Room 107, State Office Building, to Room 606, First Mechanics Bank Building. The telephone remains the same: No. 2-2131, Extension 63. Please note this change of location on the inspectors' address-list. It affects all communications with W. C. Lynn.


Mrs. Cridlin
Miss Hurley
Miss Watt
Mrs. Barlow
Mrs. Mitchell
Miss Hay
Mrs. Walsh
DIVISION OF STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH
Miss Gilliam
514
516
Froehlich
517
515
Hill
508
Strowbridge
B. Edwards
Mrs. Hammer -
Clay
Miss Gott
File Room
File Room
Market News Reports
Park
507
Mrs. Norgren
Miss Osborne
Miss Edwards
Miss Fones
Mrs. Moffatt
Beagle
Miss Boyles
Miss Axtell
Mrs. Matheson
Mrs. Jones
Mrs. Wolf
Miss Storer
Bolles
Files
Mrs. Gray
506
Mrs. Rider
W. E. Lewis
505
Leigh
LIGHT
COURT
Spangler
Stambaugh
504
Crosthwait
Pailthorp
503
Mrs. Linn
Vartia, Messenger
Toilet
Room
Boree
Calhoun
502
Miss Lewis
Mrs. Stenhouse
Miss Brosee
Miss Cunningham
Mrs. Day
Mrs. Emmert
Mrs. Ewin
Mrs. French
Mrs. Grigsby
Mrs. Jenkins
Miss Joyce
Miss Kephart
Mrs. Rice
Mrs. LaCovey
Mrs. Richey
Miss Ridgeway
Miss Watkins
Miss Woodard
McClure
Wise
Baily
Janitor
Ele-
va-
tors
501
Butner
Bier
500
Graff
Miss Schult
527
524
Offices
of
FRUIT & VEGETABLE
DIVISION
5th Floor,
Bieber Building,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
(January, 1931)
528
Cross
Spiker
526
525
Mrs. Mills
Miss Collier
Miss Sommers
Mrs. McDonald
Miss Clay
Miss Maher
Lewis, -Messenger
522
Mrs. McBride
Mrs. Lacy
Mrs. Vedder
Mrs. Parker
Miss Eisert
Mrs. Bowman
Mrs. Thrall
Mrs. Osburn
500-a
Mr.
Sherman -
NORTH FRONT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 3. January 16, 1931.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication.

1a. STATEMENTS CONCERNING EFFECT OF THE P.A.C. ACT

In view of the conflict of interest in the fruit and vegetable industry between those who wish to sell f.o.b. and those who wish to buy delivered or to obtain goods on consignment, it is felt that we should not make any predictions as to the effect of the P.A.C. Act in promoting one type of business over any other type. The purpose of the Act is to suppress certain unfair practices, and we should not divert attention from this purpose.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF APPLES ON JANUARY 1

The January report of cold-storage holdings of apples in the United States was released last Monday and is as follows:-

	Jan. 1, 1931	Jan. 1, 1930	Five-year Avg.
Barrels:	1,196,000	1,762,000	2,749,000
Boxes:	19,063,000	13,108,000	13,291,000
Baskets:	5,912,000	5,507,000	3,500,000

The total was equivalent to 9,521,000 barrels, or 20% more than last year and 14% above the five-year average figure for January.

3a. INTERESTING APPLE ITEMS

The following news items were published by F. S. Kinsey in Virginia "Inspection Notes" dated January 13:-

- A few carloads of Idaho basket apples, which have been stored in Winchester, are now being placed in barrels and exported under the U. S. grades.

- Some carloads of Virginia apples, packed in baskets, are being transferred to barrels before exporting. Much more of this would be done this season, were it not that most of the Virginia apples packed in baskets are too large to be desirable for export to Great Britain.

4a. CANNING PINEAPPLES IN HAWAII

From a total pack of 2,000 cases of pineapples in Hawaii in 1900, the canning industry had reached a total of nearly 9,000,000 cases by 1928. The figures represent the output of seven canneries, which together canned about six-sevenths of the 1928 pack. These canneries employed 9,000 workers.

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MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. COLORADO ONIONS AS LOW AS FIVE POUNDS FOR ONE CENT

In the following letter of January 10, Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, mentions Western Slope onions returning the growers only 20¢ per 100 pounds:-

"Generally clear and moderate weather has continued throughout most of Colorado the past week, so that carlot loadings have not been retarded. Potato shipments from the San Luis Valley have been lighter than anticipated. Growers received around 95¢ on Brown Beautys and $1-$1.05 on No. 1 McClures. Demand for Brown Beautys was fairly good early this week, but dropped-off later. There has been a fair demand for bright, clean, branded McClures on the Chicago market and very few other than McClures have been sent to that city.

"The northern Colorado potato movement is now fairly liberal, as indicated late last month. Dealers estimate that northern Colorado shipments will average 30 cars per day for the next two months, if prices remain satisfactory. Approximately 4,000 remain in storage for future shipment. Prices have fluctuated considerably the past week, hitting a low of 65¢ for standard grade Rurals Wednesday and Thursday, while some dealers paid as high as 85¢ for Rurals on Friday and Saturday.

"Carbondale shipments have been moderate, ranging from 1 to 12 cars daily, while Montrose with alternate train-service has ranged from nothing to 19 cars daily. Shipments from these two districts total 990 cars at present, compared with over 1,600 cars in 1930. The Carbondale district probably has at least 1,200 cars yet to move, while the Montrose crop is probably half shipped, with 601 cars moved to date.

"On account of onions generally showing a tendency to decay throughout the Colorado districts, shipments have been more liberal since New Year's Day, in order to avoid shrinkage as much as possible. Demand was slightly better early this week for Valencias but was dull later, while inquiry for Yellow Danvers has been below normal for this time of year. Growers received from 75¢ to 80¢ for U. S. No. 1 three-inch minimum Valencias and from 35¢ to 40¢ for two-inch minimum and larger. On the Western Slope, farmers received only 20¢-25¢ per cwt. for bulk No. 1 Yellow Danvers. One large shipping-concern reported the purchase of four loaded cars of No. 1 Danvers in 100-pound open-mesh bags at 30¢ per cwt., cash track f.o.b. Olathe. However, most sales have been made at a higher level than this and f.o.b.-usual-terms sales were made around 50¢-55¢ per cwt."

2b. 1930 COLORADO SHIPMENTS AND DENVER UNLOADS

Bryce Morris added the following data in his letter of January 10:-

"According to our recently-completed figures on unloads of fruits and vegetables in Denver during 1930, a slight decrease was shown from the previous year. About 6,542 cars of all commodities were unloaded in 1930, compared with 6,643 in 1929. The heaviest single unload was potatoes at 954 cars, compared with 1,088 in 1929. However, a considerable portion of this difference will probably be taken-up in truck receipts, since the weather has permitted trucking from northern Colorado practically all the season, which was retarded somewhat in 1929 by severe weather.

"According to the records of the Denver office, Colorado carlot shipments of 22 fruits and vegetables totaled 35,439 cars for the calendar year 1930, compared with 37,620 in 1929. The greatest reduction was noticed in apples, with only 1,117 shipped the past year, as against 2,438 in the calendar year 1929. A heavy increase was shown in the shipments of snap beans, with 164 cars rolled, or three times as many as the previous year. More mixed-vegetables were shipped in 1930 than in the previous year. This was partly due, no doubt, to the favorable weather conditions in Colorado and the short crop of green vegetables as a result of the drought in the Middle West and South. Mixed vegetables totaled 4,205 cars this season, compared with 4,060 in 1929. Potato shipments for the past year were slightly in excess of 1929, with 16,228 cars moved. Onion shipments in 1930 totaled 2,689 cars, as against 3,134 in 1929. This lower figure on onions was principally due to the light shipments early this fall."

3b. SHIPPING-POINT PRICES DECLINE IN MICHIGAN

R. E. Keller sent the following letter from Grand Rapids, Mich., on January 10:-

"The mild open winter has not offered the best conditions for mid-western onions in common storage. Dealers say onions are sprouting much earlier than usual and, as a result, they have been pushing their stock on the market. Shipments have been heavy since January 1, generally running well over 100 cars daily. Michigan shipped 116 cars during the past week, which is practically 20 cars a day for the six-day shipping period. This heavy movement has manifested itself in the f.o.b. onion market. Shipping-point prices on Michigan onions have declined to the low mark of the season. U. S. No. 1 Yellows f.o.b. West Michigan points in 50-pound sacks are now selling generally around 35¢, and the 100-pound sacks at 70¢-75¢. This is a decrease of a dime in the prices of a week ago on both sized sacks.

"The potato movement continued light; Michigan originating only 98 cars for the past week. The demand seemed quite limited and offerings were scarce. Quality of Michigan potatoes, as reflected by comparisons of price quotations in Detroit, still appears inferior to the offerings of Maine and Wisconsin stock. Frosted potatoes are about out of the way and salvaging of the off-grade stock likewise is about through. According to local dealers, future prices should see Michigan sales more in line with the competing stock, as quality will be improving. Prices this week have declined about 10¢ per cwt. The market, f.o.b. Cadillac, for the past several days has ruled $1.40-$1.52½ per cwt. on sacked U. S. No. 1 Russet Rurals."

3½b. FROZEN-PACK CHERRIES AND PEACHES

Approximately 100,000 barrels of cherries were packed and frozen in 1930, reports a representative of the Door County (Wisconsin) Fruit Growers Union. He says that the "growth in processing and packing cherries in a frozen state has revolutionized cherry sales methods and increased demand to such an extent that cherry prices have been more stabilized than most fruits."

With respect to freezing and distributing of Georgia peaches, it is said that a quick-freezing plant, designed to handle 40,000 pounds of ripe peaches in 24 hours at Montezuma, Georgia, turned out nearly 700,000 pounds of the finished product during the past season.

4b. WESTERN NEW YORK MARKET CONTINUES DULL

R. L. Sutton sent the following report from Rochester under date of January 13:-

"Cabbage continued to occupy the position of most importance in the movement of fruits and vegetables from western New York. Demand, however, has been limited and the f.o.b. market held steady until the heavy shipments over Saturday and Sunday caused Monday's prices to be slightly lower. The stock is running mostly medium, and it appears that more carloads are being sacked than shipped in bulk. Sales in bulk yesterday ranged $13-$14, with the 90-pound sacks bringing $15-$16 per ton. Dealers paid mostly $10 bulk per ton to growers, but the fact that some are anticipating lower prices is indicated by a new price of $8 offered growers. However, it is a fact that farmers are unwilling to sell at this figure.

"Apples have shown little change, from a marketing standpoint. Demand has continued rather slow, with price changes of little consequence. Barreled Greenings, U. S. No. 1 grade, 2½ inches up ranged $3.75-$4, with bushel tubs of the same variety, grade and size realizing $1.25-$1.30, few high as $1.35. Baldwins in bushel tubs held around $1.50 for U. S. No. 1 grade, 2½ inches up, with lower grades ranging $1-$1.30. The outturn so far this season totals about 10,350 cars, - more than twice the movement to the same time last year and greater than the entire shipments during the season of 1929-30.

"F.o.b. trading for onions continues very slow, with the few sales that are being consummated ranging 85¢-90¢ per 100-pound sack of U. S. No. 1 Yellows, 75% 2 inches and larger.

"The loading of potatoes has progressed in about the usual manner. Dealers paid generally 75¢ per bushel to the growers. The opinion has been expressed by an important shipper that the price paid to growers is a little higher than it should be. He bases his contention primarily to the grower's price paid in Maine. This has held recently at $2 bulk per barrel-measure, or approximately 72¢ per bushel. The differential in freight is small for most markets, and it is generally conceded that the quality of the Maine potatoes is superior to those from western New York.

"The trading in carrots has continued with the usual degree of sluggishness. Demand has been very light.

"The season for celery in this territory is just about finished. The final cold-storage report indicates about 58 cars remaining on January 9. Since that time, the number has been reduced to about 40 cars. Last week hardly enough sales were made to establish market quotations. The season as a whole was characterized by heavy yields and low prices. Many growers barely obtained production-costs, and some operators who bought for speculation lost money. The shipments for this season will total approximately 5,430 cars, or almost 1,600 greater than last season's movement."

5b. MARKETING SUMMARIES ISSUED

During the past week a summary has been distributed on "Marketing Florida Potatoes, 1930 Season." It was prepared by R. L. Sutton.

Another summary by H. F. Willson is entitled: "Marketing Southern Alabama Potatoes, 1930 Season."

6b. RESULTS OF THE EARLY-JANUARY BLIZZARD IN NORTHERN MAINE

W. D. Hull wrote as follows from Presque Isle, Maine, in a letter of January 12:-

"The expected strengthening of the Maine potato market after last Tuesday's storm did not materialize. Instead, the outside markets developed signs of unsteadiness, and f.o.b. prices were 5¢ lower the last of the week. All day Tuesday, the northern part of Maine was in the grip of a severe blizzard, with a temperature of 10° to 20° above zero and a stiff north wind, which caused much drifting of the snow in the roads. All forms of transportation were badly tied-up. Trains coming into the county were many hours late, but wire communication was apparently little affected. There were practically no haulings of potatoes, although car-loadings were maintained at very near the usual rate.

"The majority of the dealers became very optimistic over the expected results of the storm, and some of them raised their f.o.b. prices 5¢ per sack the same afternoon, feeling that shipments would be curtailed and that supplies in terminal markets would clean-up and an increased demand result. City buyers did not respond as was anticipated, and by Thursday the wire-inquiry had fallen-off and buying was very light.

"One result of the storm which the shippers view with satisfaction is that the roads are so blocked with snow as to stop the hauling of potatoes by auto-truck and the farmers must resort to the use of sleds, which will cause haulings to come in much more slowly. In case of a sudden upturn in the market, there is less likelihood of the warehouses being flooded with more potatoes than they can handle. The street price was $2 per barrel all last week, although buyers stopped purchasing the last of the week, as it became more difficult to make f.o.b. sales at $1.45 per 100 pounds. Numerous dealers tried to buy at $1.90 or $1.95 per barrel, but were unsuccessful. One dealer at Fort Fairfield said that $2 was the price necessary to get the potatoes and that even $1.99 would not bring them out. A few loads of extra-fancy bright stock brought $2.05 in Caribou on Friday.

"Shipments of certified seed for the week ending January 2 were only 23 cars, as reported by inspectors of the Maine Bureau of Plant Industry. For the week ending January 9, about 93 cars were shipped, 70 of these going to South Carolina and 18 to Virginia. Trading on the seed market is still very dull, although there is an increased wire-inquiry, particularly from Texas. Trading was most active on selected Cobblers."

7b. LOSS AND DAMAGE CLAIMS

During the past 12 months, about 175 requests for certification of market news reports were handled through the Office of the Secretary. Of these requests, 138 stated the amount of the claims involved, with a total of $118,621. The greatest number of requests for damage claims on any single commodity was for watermelons, - about 40% of the whole number of claims. Grapes were second, with 20%, the remainder being divided among some 25 different perishable products. The above figures were compiled by Mr. Crosthwait, of the Washington office, who takes care of these matters. A large number of additional market reports doubtless are furnished by branch offices of the News Service, for use in such court cases.

8b. INTERESTING NEWS ON IDAHO POTATOES

The following very interesting letter was received from L. C. Tate, at Idaho Falls, under date of January 8:-

"The first fruit of Idaho's 'no consignment' agreement, which was established among shippers here about five weeks ago, appears to be in harvest this week. Shipping-point inquiry has been good for the past week or more, but this demand was principally for potatoes on regular terms, which, to the average shipper's notion, means that the trade retains the option of rejection, if market conditions are not suitable upon arrival of the car.

"During the last two days there has been considerable increase in the cash demand, so that our 'track' market begins to assume normal volume. During the last five or six weeks, the cash-track market has been established on only a limited amount of trading. Last night, about 73 cash sales were reported to us on loaded cars at upper valley points. This included several cars of small bags and some loads of mixed packages, as well as a few cars of Rurals which were loaded by growers. A check of our records shows this to be the heaviest day's trading at upper valley points since November 12. Lower valley trading was proportionately heavy, while sales on bulk stocks in both districts were considerably more than at any time during the past month.

"Some of the trade, with entire lack of enthusiasm for the future market, have booked orders heavily at prices ranging around 90¢ for No. 1's loaded. Under the present condition of advancing prices, these traders are making every effort to chill the enthusiasm of others, but it seems that a better market is in prospect for the time being.

"No. 2 Russets have been in active demand all of this week, a thing that is beyond the ken of most dealers. The Greeley district of Colorado has been loading 15 to 30 cars daily for the last two weeks, a heavy increase over previous volume, and it has been noticed in the past that such action brings a slump in the demand for Idaho No. 2's. It appears that the greatest demand for these 2's is coming from Chicago and adjacent territory.

"Small bags have been in fairly-good demand. There is only a limited number of dealers in Idaho who are equipped for such packing, and the result has been that dealers have been forced to refuse orders for a while, in order to catch-up on deliveries.

"Farmers are rather reluctant to sell at prevailing figures. Hauling has been quite liberal during the current warm spell, but the greater part of this movement has resulted from the need of a little ready cash. Our office has been an unloading-place for the mental burden of dissatisfaction which all farmers appear to feel over present price conditions, and it is rather distressing sometimes to have these men linger, in hope of getting some promise or remark of encouragement from us.

"The fight over plain bags continues. At present the offense is depending on the signature of various drug-store proprietors, etc. on their petitions to carry weight with community legislators, but the men who defend the present grading-law are prepared for a strong fight when the legislature meets."

ORANGE production this season in seven important States is forecast at 47,691,000 boxes, compared with light production of 33,839,000 for the 1929-30 season. Grapefruit in four States may total 14,153,000 boxes.

9b. SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA BERRIES AND VEGETABLES MOVING

R. M. Peterson's first letter of the season from southwestern Florida is published below. It was written at Plant City on January 6:-

"The Florida strawberry movement is very light and will not show any appreciable increase for two weeks. The plants showed a heavy set of fruit two weeks ago, but the severe frost killed over 75% of the bloom and damaged a large portion of the green fruit. An unusually small percentage of the fields was protected by straw this season. The berries have been generally of good size and quality, but the color has been only fair. There has been too much rain during the past two weeks, but the berries have stood-up remarkably well until yesterday's rain, which left considerable standing water. Consequently, many of the berries picked today were soft and water-soaked. In spite of the small supply, the demand for berries has been only moderate the past week, with quarts bringing mostly around 45¢.

"The Manatee-Sarasota celery is of good quality, except for some pithiness which has prevented most cars from grading U. S. No. 1. Sarasota shipped approximately 50 cars last week and expects to move 65 cars this week, in spite of the fact that the rain prevented cutting on Monday. Manatee County is just getting started and will ship from 12 to 15 cars this week. Both sections expect slight increases next week. The shipping-point prices were firm last week because of the freeze in California, but the markets have not, as yet, shown the expected reaction, and it is doubtful if the present shipping-point level will be maintained unless the markets show greater strength.

"The vegetable market in the Manateee section was generally unsatisfactory last week, with slow demand and low prices. Approximately 20 cars of romaine moved and sold around 50¢ per 1½-bushel hamper. Escarole sold at 50¢-60¢ and the movement was about the same as that of romaine. Big Boston type head-lettuce moved slowly at 50¢ and there were less than 15 cars shipped. Cabbage was in fair demand at 75¢-85¢ per 1½-bu. hamper, with last week's movement estimated at 30 to 35 cars. Fancy peppers brought $1.25-$1.50 a crate and were in little better demand than the other vegetables, but the total movement last week did not exceed 25 cars. The eggplants were generally poor, with practically no demand."

10b. FLORIDA TOMATOES HARDLY BRINGING TRANSPORTATION CHARGES

The southern Florida vegetable situation is covered in a letter of January 10 from V. H. Nicholson at Miami:-

"The movement of snap beans during the past week has increased slightly, but shipments are still very light. There was a light frost Tuesday night, but the damage to either the Pompano or the Lake plantings was negligible. A few scattered plantings on the high sand-lands around Ft. Lauderdale were scorched, but the damage to the crop as a whole was slight. The rain on Monday afternoon had supplied sufficient moisture to prevent any serious damage to the crop on the lower lands.

"With the exception of Tuesday, after the rain and frost, prices of snap beans have been fairly high this week. Most growers and shippers state that the quality of shipments now is much better than two weeks ago. If favorable weather conditions prevail, movement should increase slightly next week, but, as only the East Coast will be shipping, it is likely that the output will continue rather light for some time.

(continued over)

"The frost Tuesday night did practically no damage to the crop of tomatoes south of here. The rain, frost and the extremely-dull market have all tended to retard movement, and shipments have been about half those of last week. Quality of the crop has been very poor and there have been practically no f.o.b. sales. Most shipments have been consigned, and the returns in many cases have scarcely paid transportation charges.

"Shippers feel that conditions should improve during the next few days and, if market conditions improve, movement will become heavier. One of the larger shippers stated that, if the market had been in a better condition this week, shipments would have been twice as heavy as they were. Movement from the Collier County acreage, south of Ft. Myers on the West Coast, had already started, but the first cars have sold for little more than freight charges.

"Carlot movement of peppers from around Pompano has been rather light, because growers are reluctant to ship at the prevailing prices. Best Fancy peppers in crates have been returning mostly $1.50-$1.75 at Pompano this week. The acreage around Pompano was recently estimated at 3,000 acres, or twice as many as last season."

11b. ARIZONA WINTER LETTUCE SEASON NEAR AN END

On January 6, B. E. Surry wrote as follows from Phoenix:-

"Arizona lettuce shipments have shown a gradual decrease for the past 10 days. This decrease has been due partly to the fact that a number of the shippers are not packing six-dozen sizes, the percentage of which has increased greatly since the heavy frosts of last month. To date, 3,311 cars have moved from the State, as compared with 2,261 on the same date last year and 3,918 in 1929. The Casa Grande section has loaded 483 cars, with enough lettuce remaining in the fields to complete a total of 500 cars. Shipments from the Phoenix section for the next 10 days will depend much on the condition of the eastern markets and the extent to which small sizes are packed.

"Solidity has been fairly satisfactory, but most cars moving out of the valley still show effects of frost damage. Almost three-fourths of the total number of crates loaded have been five-dozens.

"Although the wire-inquiry has been good and a number of sales have been made over the wires, the general f.o.b. market is rather dull, with very little activity. Sales have ranged $1.15-$1.50 for crates of generally-good quality. Quite a number of cars of straight six-dozen's have been loaded, but all were rolled unsold. The market on straight sixes was nominally $1-$1.20."

12b. AN INTERESTING REPORT ON "POTATO FUTURES" IN CHICAGO MARKET

W. H. Hall, of the Chicago office, submitted the following report in a letter dated January 14:-

"The much-heralded trading in potato futures on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange started last Monday at 9:30, with an opening sale of two cars at $1.95. For the first hour or so, prices moved within a rather narrow range, but heavy offerings from Idaho shippers and a bearish tendency in several large eastern markets pushed prices down several points, notwithstanding the fact that butter and egg operators became active traders.

Two or three good orders from Minneapolis and New York moved bids up a few points a half-hour or so before the close, but selling became rather spirited around the day's low during the last few minutes of trading. On Tuesday, the market opened at $1.90 and closed at $1.84, with trading even more active than on Monday. Wednesday's market opened at $1.90 with a block of 11 cars, closing with a firm undertone among a flock of buying orders, apparently about equally divided between purely speculative operations and actual commitments. On Monday 55 cars were sold, on Tuesday 80 cars, and on Wednesday 93 cars. These heavy turnovers far exceeded the expectations of the most-ardent supporters of the new marketing plan.

"Futures trading for the present will be confined to Idaho Russets, U. S. Grade No. 1, with the specification that this grade shall not be screened with the larger potatoes removed but must represent in size the commercial district from which shipped. Cars must be delivered on track at the Chicago Produce Terminal or the Chicago and Northwestern Wood Street Terminal and, if the cars have once had a through rate of freight, this rate must still be in existence. The potatoes must carry an official Chicago Mercantile Exchange inspection certificate, but the actual inspection work will be done by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"The margin for potatoes as established by the Exchange is $120 per car; the brokerage charge $12.50 for non-members, one-half that amount for members of the Exchange. In addition to this brokerage charge, there are Exchange charges and Government tax, which have to be paid by the customer, amounting to about $2.35 per car. Potatoes sold during January will be for March delivery, and delivery may be made any time during the contract month, at the option of the seller.

"Unless advised to the contrary, the following heading is to be used on our market reports, but, to cut down telegraphic expense, it will be dropped from our wire after a few days: 'TRADING IN POTATO FUTURES ON THE CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE, SALES ARE OF IDAHO RUSSETS U. S. GRADE 1, 360 BAGS, 36,000 POUNDS TO THE CAR, MARCH DELIVERY.'

"The ultimate outcome of this new marketing venture will be watched with a great deal of interest by growers and dealers all over the United States. Arguments for and against it are heard on every side, and the rank and file of potato operators are plainly much perturbed. One prominent butter and egg man was heard to make the following remark during today's trading: 'This is going to surpass futures trading in butter and eggs, because of the fact that it offers a wider field of operation.' It is almost impossible to get a clear picture of the whole thing, because of the fact that the real problems will be encountered when deliveries are started. The fact that they are trading in but one commodity, one variety and one grade, will go a long way toward putting over the venture. If it succeeds, undoubtedly other varieties of potatoes, and perhaps other commodities, will be added.

"Thus far, only two potato operators have become members of the Exchange, but it seems reasonably certain that others will come in during the month. If I have a correct picture of trading in potato futures, the fears that are being expressed so freely by carlot operators and jobbers, who are not members of the Exchange, are as a whole unwarranted, for I do not believe that it will materially change the present marketing-machinery. The carlot receiver and jobber will still be needed."

13b. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT UNLOAD REPORTS

In response to Par. 12b in D.L. of January 9, requests have been received for more-specific illustrations of the content and arrangement to be used in monthly unload reports, and also as to the use to be made of boat and l.c.l. receipts.

Boat receipts are to be included in carlot tabulations as at present. The l.c.l. and truck receipts, where obtained, are to be summarized and added to the monthly report but not included as a part of the carlot unload figures. It is desirable, where such information is available, to show tabulations of all supplies on the market; that is, the totals of carlot unloads and boat receipts together with truck and l.c.l. receipts, such as appear in the Denver, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and San Francisco reports. If complete l.c.l. and truck figures were available for all markets, they could be included in the various comparable totals and only one total shown; but, since they are not now obtained by all offices, comparative tabulations by months and seasons should be made on a uniform basis, - that is, by carlots only (including boat).

The following numbers (1), (2) and (3) correspond to the numbered paragraphs in last week's D.L. The month of March is taken as an illustration, for reasons indicated later:

MARKET NEWS SERVICE
(Regular office heading)

[CITY] [MARCH, 1931]

CARLOT UNLOADS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Including Boat Receipts Reduced to Carload Equivalents
(for markets having boat receipts)

(1) TOTAL CARLOT UNLOADS BY COMMODITIES

	MARCH			TOTAL JAN. 1 TO MAR.31		
	1931	1930	1929	1931	1930	1929
Anise				Anise		
Apples				Apples		
Artichokes				Artichokes		
etc.				etc.		

(2) TOTAL UNLOADS BY STATES OF ORIGIN

	MARCH			TOTAL JAN. 1 TO MAR.31		
	1931	1930	1929	1931	1930	1929
Alabama				Alabama		
Arizona				Arizona		
Arkansas				Arkansas		
etc.				etc.		

(Nos. 1 and 2 illustrated in part by Page 2 of the Philadelphia and New York reports of November, although these do not show comparisons for the year to date.)

(continued on next page)

(3) CARLOT UNLOADS OF COMMODITIES BY STATES

	MARCH 1931	MARCH 1930	MARCH 1929		MARCH 1931	MARCH 1930	MARCH 1929
Apples				Lettuce			
Colorado				Ariz.			
Idaho				Calif.			
Bananas				Potatoes			
Imports				Va.(Rail)			
Beans - (Snap)				Va.(Boat)			
Fla.				etc.			
Tex.							

(Illustrated by Page 2 of the Denver report for November)

L. C. L. EXPRESS RECEIPTS AT DURING MARCH, 1931

Commodity	Amount	Carlot Equivalents	Commodity	Amount	Carlot Equivalents

TRUCK RECEIPTS AT DURING MARCH, 1931

(Same as l.c.l.)

COMBINED CARLOT UNLOADS, L.C.L. AND TRUCK RECEIPTS, MARCH, 1931

(Carlots and Approximate Carlot Equivalents)

Commodity	Number	Commodity	Number	Commodity	Number

For the January report, the first three and last three columns of Tables 1 and 2 will, of course, be identical, and for this month the tables can be combined, the first three columns showing the January figures by commodities, and the last three by States. It is for this reason that March has been used, as an illustration of the arrangement to be used after January.

Hereafter, it will not be necessary to indicate separately the number of straight carlot express receipts. Boat receipts should be segregated in Table 3 as indicated under "Potatoes," but combined with the carlot figure in Tables 1 and 2.

City and month should stand out plainly and be repeated at the top of each page, thus:

CITY	Page 2, 3, etc.	MARCH, 1931

It is also a great convenience in filing and tabulating to have the city and month at the lower right-hand corner of each page, as:-

City, March, 1931

14b. ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE TO CALIFORNIA CITRUS FRUITS

"Although citrus damage following irregular freezes can never be definitely determined until harvest, it now seems that about 10% damage occurred in areas south of Tehachapi Mountains. About 90% of Navel crop in San Joaquin and north was harvested before freeze. Remainder of Navels in these areas mostly lost. Estimate 50% loss of Valencia crop in San Joaquin Valley and north. This area is largely Navel plantings. Lemon damage not well determined but was small in main lemon areas and heavier in San Joaquin Valley and north." (E. E. Kaufman, January 12)

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	SSept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	May 1
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 15
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept.23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block.	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept.11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House.	894	C. D. Schoolcraft	Potatoes	Sept.15	Mar. 28
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept.15	Apr. 15
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	Apr. 15
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Mar. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 1
			Tomatoes	Feb. 1	May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.** Hotel Plant.	850	R. M. Peterson	Strbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce.	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 5	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 16	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 16	May 15
			Onions	Mar. 23	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
BRAWLEY, CALIF.,** Planters' Hotel Bldg.	933	L. T. Kirby L. H. Howard	Lettuce	Jan. 5	Mar. 21
The following station probably will open on date indicated:					
SANFORD, FLA.**	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25
The following station closed on date indicated:					
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	B. E. Surry	Lettuce	Dec. 1	Jan. 16

** State cooperating
R. H. Lamb in San Francisco
J. B. Owens in Atlanta
W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)
B. E. Surry to Chicago office by January 26.

* Reports discontinued.
H. E. Rutland on leave at Presque Isle, Me.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. FEDERAL VS. PRIVATE INSPECTION CERTIFICATES UNDER P.A.C. ACT

On several occasions our attention has been called to certificates issued by private inspection services, reporting shipments below grade which were certified as U. S. No. 1 at point of origin. A question has been raised regarding the standing of such certificates in handling complaints under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, one shipper making the recommendation that private inspection agencies be prohibited from the certification of fruits and vegetables on the basis of U. S. grades.

There is no authority vested in this Department, under which private inspection agencies could be prohibited from the certification of fruits and vegetables according to grades and standards recommended by the Department. On the other hand, the certification of grade by such agencies must be regarded merely as expressions of their private opinions. They would be so regarded in connection with the consideration of a complaint under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. Statements on the certificates issued by these private inspection agencies would be considered merely as testimony and would affect in no conclusive way a certificate issued by an employee of the Department or by an inspector licensed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

When inquiry is made, licensees under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act should be informed that certificates issued by private inspection agencies are binding upon them only to the extent that they wish to be bound. In the case of attempted rejection, it would be well for shippers to insist upon official reinspection before approving allowances, unless they prefer to stand on the original inspection.

The Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture for carrying out the provisions of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act state that - "In any hearing under the Act, certificates of inspection issued in accordance with the provisions of the Act shall be accepted as prima facie evidence."

2c. INSPECTIONS OF CANNING CROPS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Each week the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture publishes a "News Bulletin." The issue for January 1-8, contained the following item:-

"Most of the principal canning States from the Pacific Coast to Maine have requested information from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regarding the system of buying and selling canning crops under State inspection, undertaken here for the first time four years ago," says D. M. James, supervising inspector for the Bureau of Markets.

"Pennsylvania was one of the pioneers in this movement to standardize canning crops, which has now assumed nationwide and worldwide attention," Mr. James explains.

"A request was received some months ago by the Department from the U. S. of Soviet Russia for the details of this method of handling canning crops. Two requests have recently been sent to the Pennsylvania canning industry for speakers at meetings to be held at Chicago and Trenton, N. J.

(continued over)

"Recently, delegations of apple growers and canners from the apple belt of Virginia and West Virginia visited canneries in Pennsylvania to view the purchasing of apples under State inspection in actual operation. The visitors were impressed with the system as being the most equitable method of marketing the crop of canning apples, and stated that plans will be made to handle canning apples next year in the Piedmont States under a system similar to that used in Pennsylvania.

"The first cannery grading in Pennsylvania was carried on in 1927, when 235,000 pounds of tomatoes were classified by State inspectors. This system of handling canning crops has grown in four years to the point where in 1930 over 50,000,000 pounds of apples, beans, cherries, tomatoes, and grapes for grapejuice manufacture were classified by Pennsylvania inspectors."

3c. JACKSONVILLE NOW AN IMPORTANT EXPORT POINT FOR CITRUS FRUIT

On January 7, R. H. von Glahn, cooperative inspector at Jacksonville, submitted a large clipping from "The Florida Times-Union" of that morning, picturing the S.S. Floridian, a freight vessel operated by the Strachan Shipping Company, being loaded with the largest cargo of citrus ever shipped by boat from Florida. The vessel sailed on the night of the 6th for England and Germany with a cargo of 16,200 boxes of oranges, grapefruit and tangerines, and about 3,000 cases of canned fruits, as part of a general cargo of 1,638 tons loaded at Jacksonville. During the first three months of this season. a total of 43,000 boxes of fresh citrus fruit has been forwarded by boat from that port, and canned grapefruit will figure almost as high as the fresh fruits. A conservative estimate of the value of the fresh fruit shipped during these three months is $130,000.

Part of Mr. von Glahn's letter of transmittal is quoted below:-

"Am enclosing a clipping which I thought might be of interest to you. I have just completed writing-up 40 certificates, which were issued on this heavy cargo of citrus fruit, all of it moving under Government inspection except about 4,500 boxes of one individual shipper. Have also had a few cars for the S.S. Shickshinny and am expecting several more in the next few days. This ship will sail about January 12 or 13, and they are expecting to have two more ships leave this port this month. Most of the cargo is grapefruit, but there are a few cars of oranges and tangerines, most of the grapefruit being 70's, 80's and 96's, with some 112's and 126's, the smaller sizes being mostly Thompson Seedless or pink-meat grapefruit. Exporters hope to continue shipping through June this year. The quality of all this fruit has been exceptionally good."

4c. CALIFORNIA SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS

During December, about 2,367 inspections were made at points in California. The leading districts were as follows:- Los Angeles, 482 inspections, including 5 at shipside; Santa Maria 288; San Francisco 269, including 213 shipside; Brawley-El Centro 267; Sacramento 244, and Stockton 205.

-- IF YOU EVER FAIL TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE D.L., ASK WASHINGTON FOR ONE.--

5c. REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Service and Regulatory Announcement No. 93,- Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture Governing the Inspection and Certification of Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products, - has been revised. The new rules and regulations, which were approved by the Secretary, will be effective today, January 16, and provide for changes in appeal inspection fees for all products and a reduction in the peanut inspection fee. The principal changes are covered in the following telegram, which was sent to all the inspection offices yesterday:-

"New Rules and Regulations governing inspection of fruits, vegetables and other products approved by Secretary, effective January 16, provide double in place of triple fees for appeal inspections, meaning $8 instead of $12 as heretofore when sustained and no charge when reversed. Peanuts, pecans and other nuts $5 fee for all lots not exceeding carload. Different grades and varieties of peanuts constitute separate lots, making $10 for car containing 1's and 2's or Spanish and runners, with provision that maximum fee for re-inspection of single car shall not exceed $15. Latter provision applies to all products."

Copies of the revised Service and Regulatory Announcement No. 93 will be mailed to all offices as soon as a supply is received from printer.

6c. RECORD OF CALIFORNIA LETTUCE INSPECTIONS

The following summary of lettuce inspections in California during the last six months of 1930 was published in "The Inspectors' Notes" for January 9:-

District	#1	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	Below 50%	Total
Imperial V.	101	72	33	16	4	5	6	2	-	26	265
Sacramento	177	150	140	52	-	19	5	1	-	4	548
Salinas	66	152	143	67	19	34	20	22	7	135	665
Santa Maria	1	11	19	14	9	7	5	3	-	20	89
Watsonville	46	78	40	35	18	28	15	8	2	44	314
Woodland	44	41	23	8	3	2	-	-	-	4	125
	435	504	398	192	53	95	51	36	9	233	2006

7c. GREEN MOLD ROT OF TOMATOES

E. E. Conklin, of the Chicago office, has called attention to Mexican tomatoes, showing considerable Alternaria Rot, Phoma Rot and Green Mold Rot, the latter especially after being in ripening-rooms. Particular mention is made of Green Mold Rot, and all inspectors are requested to read carefully the following item, reprinted from D.L. of Dec. 14, 1928. It was originally written by G. B. Ramsey, Senior Pathologist in the Chicago office of B.P.I.:-

"This fall, the California tomatoes arriving on the eastern markets have shown many greenish-black spots that have caused inspectors difficulty in diagnosis. These spots usually follow shoulder bruises or mechanical wounds elsewhere on the tomato, and are found generally on turning or ripe fruit, although green tomatoes that are, for any reason, delayed in ripening may show this trouble. The decay is caused by a green mold (Cladosporium), which is common in most tomato-growing regions, but is known chiefly as a leaf mold.

(continued over)

"The lesions produced on ripening fruit are greenish-black, circular, and vary from 1/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter. The center is sunken and the surface generally smooth, but sometimes a fine greenish powdery appearance is produced by the development of surface mycelium and spores. Most lesions extend about 1/8 inch deep. The decaying tissue within is grayish-black and spongy and can be lifted from the surrounding healthy tissue with the point of a knife.

"On green fruit the spots are greenish-brown, somewhat leathery, and slightly sunken. In the humid atmosphere of ripening rooms, the greenish mycelium and spores of the fungus soon become evident in the center of the spots.

"Green Mold Rot appears in many respects quite similar to Phoma Rot and Alternaria Rot, but the above-mentioned characteristics should make it possible to recognize this disease. Alternaria Rot usually produces a brownish-black surface mold, penetrates deeply into the flesh, and causes a black discoloration of the tissues. Phoma Rot is generally limited to growth cracks and checks about the stem scar, and the smooth, sunken, black surface of the lesions shows pycnidia by the time they reach a diameter of 1/4 inch."

8c. APPLE INSPECTIONS IN VIRGINIA FOR SEASON TO JANUARY 1

The following report was made by F. S. Kinsey in Virginia "Inspection Notes" for January 13:-

	WINCHESTER	STAUNTON	CHARLOTTESVILLE	ROANOKE	TOTAL
DECEMBER:	275	23	124	39	461
SEASON to Jan. 1:	2,806	481	712	278	4,277
EXPORT FORM CERTS.					
DECEMBER:	252	22	117	35	426
SEASON to Jan. 1:	2,391	393	637	211	3,642
DOMESTIC CERTS.					
DECEMBER:	23	1	7	4	35
SEASON to Jan. 1:	415	88	75	58	636
EXPORT FORM CERTS. REFUSED, RESIDUE					
DECEMBER:	7	0	5	0	12
SEASON to Jan. 1:	85	6	38	24	155
EXPORT FORM CERTS. REFUSED, WORMS					
DECEMBER:	6	0	0	0	6
SEASON to Jan. 1:	16	2	11	0	29

It will be noted that by far the larger part of those cars which were refused Export Form Certificates on account of residue were shipped before December 1. This is due largely to the fact that, later, in many cases carlots were analyzed for residue prior to the time of the issuance of the certificate, and those found running high were cleaned before the certificate was issued.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING DECEMBER, 1930

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

SYMBOLS N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS	Fruits and vegetables PASSED		Fruits and vegetables REJECTED		Total Quantity INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-weight	
STATIONS	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
CHARLESTON	253206	0	10876	0	264082	0	40	0	0	0
GREAT LAKES	95734	0	146285	0	242019	0	40	0	0	0
NEW YORK	464526	74055	29824	1185	494350	75240	0	0	0	0
NORFOLK	73217	0	0	0	73217	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	329248	21313	5992	1500	335240	22813	330	12	0	0
SAN DIEGO	717702	44567	10579	1094	728281	45661	5603	413	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	718754	50500	45000	0	763754	50500	0	0	0	0
SAN PEDRO	622943	0	6686	0	629629	0	2404	0	0	0
VALLEJO	180857	21716	10704	1150	191561	22866	0	0	0	0
WASHINGTON	8805	0	0	0	8805	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3464992	212151	265946	4929	3730938	217080	8417	425	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U. S. SHIPPING BOARD										
NEW YORK	8032		0		8032		0		0	
NORFOLK	9275		0		9275		0		0	
TOTAL	17307		0		17307		0		0	
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U. S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL										
CHICAGO	46840		4440		51280		0		0	
MILWAUKEE	17733		90		17823		0		0	
NEW YORK	132390		5785		138175		0		0	
PHILADELPHIA	38485		17730		56215		0		0	
TOTAL	235448		28045		263493		0		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:

	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	79501	260879	4586
Munson S.S. Line	11183	43886	0
American France Line	5061	25291	0
American Diamond Line	3763	18295	0
American India Line	3318	14624	0
American Brazil Line	795	6071	0
Dollar S.S. Line	23283	69211	1130
Total	126904	438257	5716

In addition, the San Pedro office inspected 2,599 lbs. bread, 5,414 lbs. butter and 1,640 lbs. cheese for the Navy: the Vallejo office inspected 26,287 lbs. bread and 886 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

CITY MARKET INSPECTIONS FOR DECEMBER WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK.

9c. BREAKDOWN OF ONIONS A GRADE DEFECT

Onions showing soft, watery discolored outer scales, which may be either freezing injury or breakdown, will be treated as a grade defect, except when ice is found present in some specimens in such a position as to indicate transit freezing. Freezing injury should not be certified unless ice crystals are present and the inspector is reasonably sure of freezing injury. When such stock is scattered throughout load, the injury should be described under "Quality." The statement that the location of the damaged stock iindicates that the injury did not occur in transit should not be made, this form of statement being reserved for cases when freezing injury is reported and there is no question as to whether the trouble is "breakdown" or "freezing injury."

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

On his return trip from Boston and Worcester, Mass., last Friday evening, Mr. Sherman stopped at New Haven, Conn., between trains, and addressed a meeting which had been quickly arranged by members of the trade from four or five of the largest towns in the State. About 50 or 60 dealers and brokers were present, and Mr. Sherman found them greatly interested in the provisions of the P.A.C. Act, which he explained to them, answering numerous questions that were raised.

Mr. Sherman expects to leave Washington on Saturday afternoon for Chicago, where he will attend during the first three days of next week the meetings of the American Fruit & Vegetable Shippers Assn. and those of the Potato Division of the organization. He expects to take part in discussions of such subjects as the P.A.C. Act and other matters connected with the work of our Bureau. He plans to be back in Washington not later than January 23.

Herbert Graff went to Richmond, Va., on Tuesday and inspected three cars of Florida cabbage in that market.

W. E. Leigh, of Mr. Pailthorp's project, went to New York City on Tuesday to confer with inspectors regarding citrus grades. He will return to his desk this Saturday.

W. E. Lewis, of the Standardization and Research project, plans to be in Chicago all of next week, attending the meetings of the National Canners Assn. at Stevens Hotel. On Thursday afternoon he will lead a discussion on "Buying Raw Products on Grade" and he will also present the studies which have been made of grades for cannery cherries and sweet corn, and will take part in discussions on apples, spinach and tomatoes. He will also discuss citrus grades with our Chicago inspectors.

B. E. Surry closed the market reports at Phoenix, Arizona, today and will probably take a few days' leave, visiting points in southern California, before returning to Chicago about January 26.

A. E. Mercker will attend the trade meetings in Chicago next week.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 4 January 23, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. REDUCED RAILROAD RATES

It is understood that the railroads are now offering reduced rates much more frequently than has been done in the past. In view of this, it will be necessary for all travelers at Government expense, whether on cash fare or transportation request, to give careful attention to the purchase of excursion tickets, round-trip tickets, party tickets, etc., whenever practicable and economical, as outlined in Par. 16 of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations. If the use of available reduced rates is overlooked, suspensions from expense accounts by the Accounting Offices will undoubtedly result.

2a. HARRY A. LEVY, CHICAGO, SENTENCED UNDER THE PRODUCE AGENCY ACT

Advice has been received from the U.S. Attorney in Chicago that Harry A. Levy pleaded guilty on December 19 in three cases filed against him, alleging violation of the Produce Agency Act.

Two cases based on complaints filed by Jacob Alexander, of Mitchell, Nebr., and H. E. Nagle, of Parker, Idaho, were consolidated. In these cases Levy was sentenced to pay a fine of $100 and costs.

The third case was based on a complaint filed by Baldwin-Pope Marketing Co., of St. Louis, Mo. In this case Levy was fined $100 and placed on probation for a period of one year, the terms of probation being that the defendant shall reimburse the shipper for the money withheld, he to be confined for a period of one year should he during his period of probation fail to reimburse the shipper.

The complaint filed by Jacob Alexander involved consignments of 10 cars of potatoes shipped in September and October, 1928. Accounts sales were rendered by Harry A. Levy, showing total net proceeds amounting to $1,266.77. No payment whatever was made or offered, however, until after prosecution was commenced.

The complaint filed by H. E. Nagle involved two cars of potatoes received on consignment in November, 1927. The sale prices were falsely reported to the consignor and no remittance of the net proceeds, which amounted to $702.40, was made, except a belated payment of $50 on account.

The complaint filed by Baldwin-Pope Marketing Co. involved five carloads of cabbage handled on consignment and three carloads of spinach on joint-account in March, 1929. Although a check in the amount of $1,065.75 was forwarded to cover the reported net proceeds, payment was refused on account of insufficient funds and no subsequent payment was made.

BOTH market-news men and inspectors should be sure to read the item under the heading of "Regulatory Activities" in the back part of this D.L.

3a. APPLES AND PEARS STORED IN WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 1

The following report was submitted by Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, during the past week:

APPLE STORAGE HOLDINGS, JANUARY 1:

YAKIMA DISTRICT	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	
Cold Storage	4,947	4,826	4,822	5,896	5,808	7,296	cars
Common Storage	1,073	380	464	506	189	365	cars
Total	6,020	5,206	5,286	6,402	5,997	7,661	cars
WENATCHEE DISTRICT							
Cold Storage	1,637	2,424	2,782	3,906	3,837	5,012	cars
Common Storage	1,784	938	1,466	1,688	1,686	2,013	cars
Total	3,421	3,362	4,248	5,594	5,523	7,025	cars

STORAGE REPORT BY VARIETIES, JANUARY 1:

	YAKIMA		WENATCHEE	
	1931 cars	1930 cars	1931 cars	1930 cars
Winesaps	4,355	4,419	4,279	3,740
Jonathans	57	83	15	10
Romes	1,355	649	582	294
Delicious	964	403	1,122	708
Yellow Newtowns	405	135	159	78
Spitzenburgs	42	11	50	41
Ark. Blacks	264	127	136	63
Staymans	72	67	132	131
Black Twigs	55	35	37	27
W. W. Pearmains	34	9	75	37
Black Bens and Ganos	17	11	34	31
Miscellaneous	41	48	43	18
Total	7,661	5,997	6,664	5,178
Ranch Holdings.			361	345
	7,661	5,997	7,025	5,523
PEARS:				
Nellis	442	380	3½	5
D'Anjous	158	136	23	48
Bosc	37	9	8½	0
Miscellaneous	34	4	11	10
Total	671	529	46	63

HOOD RIVER HOLDINGS:

APPLES:- 492 cars Cold Storage; 28 cars Common Storage

PEARS (Cold Storage)

D'Anjous..... 59 cars Easters..... 4 cars
Nellis..... 15 cars Miscellaneous..... 10 cars

MEDFORD DISTRICT:

APPLES:- 179 cars (mostly Newtowns)
PEARS:- D'Anjous..... 195 cars; Nellis..... 176 cars

SPOKANE DISTRICT:

APPLES:- 42 cars Cold Storage; 24 cars Common Storage

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. A STANDARD PACKAGE FOR FLORIDA BERRIES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 19

The following information was submitted by R. M. Peterson from Plant City, Fla., on January 16:-

"The strawberry movement has been rather light this week, with little likelihood of much change next week. Although the total carlot shipments to date are far below those of last season, this year's movement compares favorably with that of normal years. The quality has improved, but many of the berries are poorly colored. Prices to growers remained fairly steady this week around 39¢ per quart.

"The quart cup was used almost entirely in this section until a few years ago, when the oblong pint made its appearance. The pint cup was shaped to fit the pony refrigerators, which are now used for both pints and quarts. The pint cup became very popular and has rapidly taken the place of the quart cup. At present, both pints and quarts are packed in various-sized crates, and this lack of uniformity makes it constantly necessary for the shippers to transfer these cups, in order to load a car with crates of uniform size. As a result, northern buyers have formed preferences for certain sized crates and cups, and it has become impossible for local buyers to know what package to use.

"This lack of uniformity also caused wide variations in the relative prices paid for quarts and pints. The quart price may be relatively higher one day, because of anunusually large number of orders for quarts, and the next day most of the growers will pack in quarts with the hope of getting the high price. This usually results in pints selling at a premium, and in general dissatisfaction. Most of the buyers feel that all of this can be eliminated by adopting a uniform package. The 36-pint crate, with oblong pints, has been agreed upon, and the growers have been asked to use this container exclusively. Some of the buyers stated that they expect to continue to fill orders for quarts packed in pony refrigerators, but that these berries would be supplied by their own growers who will be told how many quarts to pack. This standard-package request goes into effect January 19, but there seems to be some question regarding the ultimate result.

"The celery shipments from the Manatee-Sarasota section will be around 100 cars this week, with slightly lighter movement expected next week. The quality has remained practically unchanged, and most cars have been packed under the second-grade label because this stock is not quite good enough to grade U. S. No. 1. The demand has been good for smaller sizes and has shown some improvement, the last few days, for the larger sizes. Prices have remained practically unchanged for the past two weeks.

"Practically all of the celery in this ections is handled by two organizations. The Manatee County Growers Association is putting up a crate-washed, precooled pack. The Palmer Farms, Inc., located near Sarasota, is packing individually-washed and precooled celery. Both of these organizations have precooling plants, that actually precool the celery before being placed in the cars. It may have been noticed that the prices paid for crate-washed seem inconsistent, at times, with those paid for individually-washed stock. This is due to the fact that practically all of the sales in this section are handled by these two organizations."

2b. MANY IDAHO POTATOES SHIPPED IN SMALL BAGS

L. C. Tate, in a letter of January 15 from Idaho Falls, tells of the relatively large volume of Idaho potatoes shipped in small bags:-

"The gradual elimination of freezing injury from the Idaho potato crop, as the season has progressed, is a big factor in the shipping of small bags. This month 15 and 25-pound bags are moving in somewhere near normal volume for the first time. To date there have been probably less than 1,000 cars of small bags shipped from Idaho, but the remainder of the season may see more than double that quantity loaded. Well-posted trade people are of the opinion that 3,500 cars of small bags were shipped from the State last year, so that present indications point to a slight decrease of shipments in these packages this year, in spite of the fact that the crop as a whole is much greater.

"The 50-pound bags have moved quite freely into northern California at prices ranging generally 10¢ per cwt. over the regular market on 100-pound bags. Judging by our cash-track sales at shipping points, the market for 25-pound bags has held about 25¢ above the regular market for 100's while 15-pound bags generally bring 30¢ over the standard sizes. These margins on 15's and 25's are largely made up of the cost of the small bags, together with a small margin absorbed by extra handling at the sorting-table and in loading the cars.

"The 50-pound bags have all been burlap sacks, while the 25's were mostly cotton bags. The 15's run largely to woven-paper, open-mesh bags, but some operators are using cotton sacks of this size. Although we have no knowledge of straight cars of 10-pound bags being shipped from the State, we often get quotations on such packages in mixed cars and occasionally we hear of boxed bakers being sold cash-track in mixed cars. But trading on the latter two packages is extremely scattered, so that we are unable to quote them on the market wires.

"There has been a strong demand for No. 2's during the last 10 days, and prices have advanced in spite of a dull condition on No. 1's. During the first three months of the season, it seems the Idaho growers made special effort to move their No. 2's, feeling that any speculation on future markets would best be done on good-quality stocks that were not so apt to show a heavy shrinkage. That early movement of No. 2's apparently has built up a good outlet for the grade, so that now the call exceeds the available supply. The margin between 1's and 2's will probably be lessened, as the season advances. Chicago, the recipient of heavy consignments of this grade during October and November, has now become the most active cash-buyer for these No. 2's, prices at that point being 10¢-20¢ above those quoted in other markets.

"There have been in the neighborhood of 800 carloads of contract potatoes loaded at Idaho shipping points during the past three weeks. These have cost dealers various prices, ranging from $1.50 to $2 for No. 1 grade, loaded. This condition has left only a moderate amount of daily offerings from Idaho, in spite of the heavy movement ranging up to 200 cars daily, because a good portion of these contract potatoes is in turn sold to city terminals on previous agreements."

DECEMBER, 1930, issue of "Crops and Markets" contains all the final crop reports for the year, with comparative figures for previous years. If your office does not have a copy of the December issue, ask for one.

3b. NEWS ON CITRUS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

W. D. Googe sent the following interesting report in a letter of January 12 from Brownsville, Texas:-

"Lower Rio Grande Valley shipments of fruits and vegetables to date this season are considerably less than to the same time last season. The citrus movement is more than a thousand cars short of the number of cars shipped to date in 1930, due to a lighter crop following cold weather a year ago and also to low prices this season which have delayed harvesting the fruit. The vegetable movement is likewise short of the number of cars shipped at this time last year, despite increased acreages of many commodities. Rainy weather early in the fall hindered planting, and generally cool weather during December resulted in slow growth. A compensating factor, however, is better quality, particularly in cabbage and spinach, which are said to be far above the average at this time of the year in this section.

"The feature of last week's marketing of these commodities was a sharp increase in cabbage prices. Wire-order prices rose from $20 per ton on Monday to $30 and $32.50 on Friday. Rains Friday night and Sunday resulted in light loadings, and shippers are hesitant about sending out quotations or taking orders at any price now. Most of them state that these prices are too high, in comparison with those for storage cabbage, and are fearful that a reaction may send prices in the Valley back to the low level of two years ago, when the bulk of the crop moved at $10 to $12 per ton, f.o.b. usual terms. The cabbage is being bought from growers at so much per ton, but shipments consist largely of lettuce crates. Some cars of bulk cabbage are being shipped and there are occasional cars of the old-time 'barrel' crates, but the western lettuce crate is by far the most popular package this season. Some shippers are experimenting with shipments in open-mesh sacks and in 1½-bushel hampers.

"Carrots also advanced in price during the past week, while beets and spinach held about steady. Some few cars of fall-crop potatoes are being moved, mostly on consignment but with generally satisfactory returns. Green sprouting broccoli has been in good demand, while anise, endive, escarole, mustard, turnips and turnip greens have moved rather slowly at comparatively low prices. Plantings of spring crops of potatoes, beans and tomatoes are practically completed, and reports indicate that these commodities will be 10 days to two weeks earlier this season than last year."

Additional information was received in the following letter, dated January 18:-

"Movement of vegetables from the lower Rio Grande Valley during the last week has been hampered by rainy weather. By Friday, fields were too wet for harvesting even root-crops except in a few isolated high spots. The rains were slow and misty, as are frequently encountered in this section during this season, - the kind that makes good quality and high yields of winter vegetables.

"The slight gains reported in prices the first week after the holidays were generally lost last week. Cabbage dropped back to around $20 per ton in carloads f.o.b. usual terms. Despite lighter loadings on account of the weather, terminal markets showed considerable weakness. Carrots were in similar position. Crates were in fair demand at $1.50 a week ago, but this week closed with a very light demand at mostly $1.35. Beets are selling at the same prices as carrots, whereas during the first week of the new year

they generally ruled 15¢ to 25¢ higher. Spinach showed a firmer tone, due to lighter shipments in the Winter Garden section. The large crop of turnips planted this season has brought poor returns. Green sprouting broccoli has been in good demand, notwithstanding a greatly increased volume moving in mixed cars. There has been some improvement in prices for citrus, but growers do not yet consider them encouraging. Of the thousand or so cars of citrus left to be shipped, it is estimated that about 150 cars are oranges and the balance mostly grapefruit."

4b. WISCONSIN SEED-POTATO BUSINESS SLOW

In a letter of January 16 from Waupaca, C. D. Schoolcraft tells of the dull market for Wisconsin seed potatoes this year:-

"Carlot potato prices in Wisconsin have ranged generally $1.20-$1.30 for the past 10 days, with the majority of the stock selling around $1.25. Occasional cars of better-grade northern stock have sold higher, with ordinary and poor stock selling considerably lower. Some cars of ungraded stock have returned as low as 90¢ per 100 pounds or less than cost. All interest has been lost in No. 2 stock and one operator, at least, has been selling this stuff that he acquired earlier in the season for stock-feed at any figure that is offered. Practically no No. 2 stock will be shipped this year unless the market improves considerably.

"The certified-seed business has been very slow and such sales as have been made so far have failed to maintain the usual margin that is expected above the price of table stock. Dealers here are blaming this lack of seed business on two facts: (1) the relatively lower prices on Nebraska Triumphs, which comprise the bulk of the seed movement from Wisconsin at this season, and (2) a reluctance on the part of southern growers to buy their seed in advance of the actual requirements. During the past two seasons, the southern growers who bought their seed at planting-time gained an advantage over those who bought far in advance, and it appears that such will likely be the case again this year.

"Movement from the farm continues very light, despite a mild and open winter. Shipments are increasing somewhat and are averaging close to 50 cars per day, a movement which will likely take care of the remainder of the crop without any surplus at the end of the season."

5b. BUNCHED SPINACH FROM IMPERIAL VALLEY

W. H. Hall, of the Chicago office, wrote the following letter about his market quotations on bunched spinach from California:-

"I have your letter of the 23rd ult., making inquiry about the bunched spinach, quoted in our recent wires. This spinach is the ordinary flat or broad-leaf type, such as is received from the other spinach States. From two to four bunches are tied together, either with string, grass or rubber-bands. There seems to be no particular advantage in this method of packing, but, on the other hand, there is one decided disadvantage, and that is: the stock is inclined to heat, due no doubt to poor air-circulation. Two or three cars were received, all coming from around Calexico in the extreme end of the Imperial Valley. Today a good-sized lot of this stock had to be sacrificed at 50¢ per crate, due to decay. It is more than likely that this new method will be short-lived."

6b. CONTINUED RAINS HAVE DAMAGED FLORIDA VEGETABLES

V. H. Nicholson sent the following news in a letter of January 17 from Miami, Fla.:-

"Rains the first of this week, followed by the cold weather Wednesday and Thursday, have served to retard the movement of vegetables from south Florida points. A minimum of 38° was reached here in Miami on Wednesday night and a temperature of 37° was reported at the Experiment Station about three miles southeast of Belle Glade. Mr. Steffani, County Agent at Homestead, reported a minimum of 38° there. This was probably the coldest weather of the season; yet, because of the rather high winds which blew all night, there was no frost reported in any of the lower East Coast sections. At first, it was thought that there might be some rather-serious damage to the growing beans around Lake Okeechobee, but it now appears that the damage will be very light. The cold weather did little damage to beans, peppers and tomatoes in the East Coast sections.

"The rains on Monday and Tuesday, which extended over the extreme southern part of Florida, seem to have done more damage than the cold weather. Mr. Steffani at Homestead and shippers here in Miami report that the rains probably ruined about 500 acres of tomatoes southwest of Homestead. The quality of the tomatoes has been only fair, and nearly a week of rainy, cold and cloudy weather has made conditions worse. While it would be incorrect to say that south Florida has had six sunless days, there have been six days with very little sunshine and the tomatoes and other crops have suffered accordingly.

"Although shipments have been heavier than last week, there has been little trading in tomatoes, mainly because of the poor quality and the probability of rot developing in transit. There have been practically no f.o.b. sales of tomatoes this week. One car of only fair quality sold yesterday at $1.75 per six-basket crate of Fancy count, and the Choice count in that car sold at 75¢. The inquiry is fairly good for good tomatoes, but there havebeen practically no good tomatoes available for shipment during the past week.

"Shipments of beans are in about the same volume as last week. However, the quality yesterday was not as good as at the first of the week and most Bountifuls sold at $4-$4.50 per bushel hamper. Most of the beans are being shipped from Pompano, but a few express lots and an occasional mixed-car containing beans has been shipped from around Lake Okeechobee.

"Shipments of peppers from around Pompano have increased this week. The price has also advanced to $2.25-$2.50 per crate, with most sales around $2.50 yesterday. While it is probable that the market will be a little top-heavy at that figure, the demand yesterday seemed to be fairly good and there were about five cars of peppers loaded at Pompano. There has also been a fair movement from the section around Ft. Myers on the West Coast.

6½b. ADDITIONS TO "D" PAGE OF CODE (effective January 30)

Effective with the f.o.b. report of January 30, add the following to the "D" page of the code:

DEL - Western New York Points

DUL - Western and Central New York Points

7b. VALENCIA ONION PRICES ADVANCE IN SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO

Bryce Morris wrote as follows from the Denver office in a letter of January 17:-

"The past week has been quiet, as far as potatoes were concerned in Colorado. There was a slight increase in prices to growers down in the San Luis Valley, while northern Colorado points remained about steady. Northern Colorado shipments have been fairly liberal as predicted, ranging from 11 to 40 cars daily this week. On the Western Slope, shipments have been more liberal, ranging from 7 to 37 cars daily. The Carbondale and Montrose districts together have now shipped 1,095 cars, compared to 1,790 last season at this time. According to shippers' and dealers' estimates, the Western Slope movement is only slightly over one-third completed. Potatoes are apparently keeping quite well in storage this season, and no unfavorable reports have been received from storage cellars in the various districts.

"Potato dealers here in the Denver area seem quite interested in the 'futures' sales on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange but as yet have not availed themselves of the opportunity to buy and sell through this medium. However, several have expressed their intention of doing so, after watching operations on 'futures' for a few weeks.

"Onion shipments have been moderate recently. A good demand developed early this week for large Valencias in the Arkansas Valley. Dealers reported sales in 100-pound open-mesh sacks at $1.35-$1.40 for U.S. No.1, while a few sales of 50-pound sacks were reported as high as $1.60 per cwt., although the bulk of sales were made at $1.40-$1.50 per cwt., f.o.b. usual terms. Dealers and warehouse-men paid the growers 90¢-$1 for three-inch Valencias, while the two-inch stock returned only 35¢-40¢ bulk per cwt. to the grower. If the recent ratio continues, the 1930-31 shipments would be around 1,500 cars, but dealers generally estimate that 1,300 to 1,400 cars will be the maximum shipped from southeastern Colorado, unless prices improve.

"On the Western Slope 390 cars of onions have now been shipped, compared with 881 last season. Growers are receiving mostly 25¢ per cwt. for bulk No. 1 Yellow Danvers, delivered at the warehouse. The demand for this variety was very slow and offerings have been light on account of low prices.

The Denver Market

"A carload of bulk grapefruit from the Indian River section of Florida was offered in Denver this week. Bourk-Donaldson-Taylor bought the car and packed the fruit in bushel baskets. It was the Marsh Seedless variety and sold around $3.50 per bushel. Sizes were arranged to run uniformly per package. Mr. Black, Vice President of the company, advises that the new package sold quite freely.

"California cauliflower has been lower on the Denver market, chiefly on account of poorly-headed stock, with occasional sales reported as low as $1.50. Best Arizona cauliflower was selling at $2.10-$2.25 per pony crate. New cabbage in lettuce crates from Texas and Arizona was selling at 3½¢ per pound here this week."

8b. NEW MARKETING SUMMARIES

This week, there have been distributed two summaries by W. D. Googe:- "Marketing Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas Vegetables (Carrots, Beets, Beans, Corn, Onions and Mixed Vegetables), 1929-30 Season," and "Marketing Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas Cabbage, 1929-30 Season."

9b. COST OF PRODUCING AND MARKETING WASHINGTON LETTUCE

T. R. Hall wrote as follows in a letter of January 9 from Seattle, Wash:-

"Some interesting figures have recently come to the writer's attention in connection with various items entering into the distribution of Iceberg-type lettuce. No attempt is being made to show the comparative costs between the Pasco-Walla Walla section and the Puget Sound territory, as such information is not at hand.

"The manager of the Pasco Growers' Association plant, which has just finished marketing nearly 150 cars, estimates that the handling charges per crate, packed in their plant, average 31¢. Included in this item is all ice, apaper, light and power, labor in unloading from the trucks, and packing and loading into cars. The average net returns were $1.18 per crate, after deducting all selling expenses, packing and handling charges, labor, icing, in fact everything but the price of the crates.

"H. D. Locklin, Horticulturist for the Western Washington Experiment Station, has made a survey of costs for producing and marketing Pugent Sound lettuce, preparatory to submitting material for publication in a Station bulletin. From his survey, he tells me that it costs about 75¢ to grow and deliver a crate of lettuce, and an additional 80¢ to precool, grade, pack and sell the crate. Unfortunately, comparable information for the two districts is unavailable."

10b. FLORIDA CITRUS EXCHANGE TO MOVE TO WINTER HAVEN

H. F. Willson sent the following news in a letter of January 17 from Winter Haven:-

"Friday, January 16, was a lucky day for Winter Haven. On this date the Florida Citrus Exchange voted to move its headquarters from Tampa to Winter Haven. There was considerable opposition to this change. The directors' vote resulted in a deadlock, 12 to 12. The chairman cast his vote in favor of a change. Winter Haven, Orlando and Lakeland made the strongest bids for the Exchange's new home, Winter Haven finally winning over Orlando in the final ballot 13 to 10.

"The prospective Exchange headquarters in the Realty Commerce Building have been purchased by 1,500 growers of nearby exchanges and three independent shippers here in Winter Haven. The building, which is only partially finished, will be completed according to Exchange specifications and turned over as an outright gift. It is planned to have it ready for occupancy at the close of the present shipping-season, at which time the move will be made."

11b. ANNUAL REPORT OF VIRGINIA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Bulletin No. 277 of the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Immigration, dated January 1931, contains the annual report of the Department. It is a volume of 136 interesting pages, well-illustrated by about 70 photographic cuts of farm scenes and farm operations throughout the State, showing every phase of agricultural life. About 16 pages are devoted to fruit growing and inspection. Pictures are presented of an apple-packing plant and of a strawberry-packing shed. A chapter is given to watermelons.

12b. REPORT OF CHICAGO POTATO "FUTURES"

Trading in potato "futures" seems to be definitely established at Chicago, and such sales will be regularly included hereafter as a part of the Chicago market report.

In line with the market news policies in similar instances, it is not believed to be advisable to specify in the daily mimeographed reports that sales are made on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, any more than we would specify the names of auction companies. If this method of trading is successful, it is possible that potato "futures" will be added on other exchanges. Therefore, we believe the report should be added to the regular market merely under the title of "Futures," specifying month of delivery.

Additions to the code appear to be unnecessary, at least until the basis of trading is expanded. For the present, the report will be wired as "FUTURES MARCH DELIVERY IDAHO PAYEF etc." This should be printed as a part of the Chicago market, following the usual "track sales, carlots outweight." If trading is started on other varieties, they will be quoted accordingly.

13b. ADDITIONAL POTATO AND ONION SHIPMENT FIGURES ON THE LEASED WIRE

On each Tuesday throughout the shipping season of the old crop, the potato shipment wire, hereafter, will include the totals to date this season and last from the 19 surplus States, in addition to totals to date for the entire United States.

These totals for the 19 surplus States will follow the U. S. totals of the old crop, and will be designated by the word "surplus," as follows:

"TD OLD 175,384 SURPLUS 105,651 NEW 450
LS OLD 168,637 SURPLUS 111,267 NEW 370"

This should be printed on the reports as: "Totals to date: This season, Old: U.S. 175,384; 19 Surplus States 105,651; New 450. Last season, Old: U.S. 168,637; 19 Surplus States 111,267; New 370."

All offices should in all cases specify in full the term "19 Surplus States," and not use merely the word "surplus."

Beginning on the same date (January 27) the onion shipment wire will also include totals to date for the late crop, as well as total U.S. shipments These will be designated by the word "late" and should be printed on the reports as "Late States." The States included in this total will correspond to the list in the Weekly Carlot Summary of January 27 and thereafter.

14b. WESTERN NEW YORK CABBAGE PRICES AT A LOW LEVEL

The following report dated January 20 was received from R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office:-

"At western New York shipping-points the demand and trading for most lines of fruits and vegetables have been rather inactive during the past seven days. The loadings of cabbage averaged slightly over 60 cars daily. Dealers were finding it difficult to sell their offerings f.o.b., with the consequence that a large number of cars had to be consigned and some loadings accumulated on track. The price paid to growers dropped as low as $8 per ton in some cases, but as a rule the producers were unwilling to let any quantity of stock go at this figure. The $10 value continued to be the one at which most sales between grower and dealer were made.

"Apples moved out under practically the same marketing conditions as were reported previously. A limited number of sales were being made for ex-

port shipment, although it is believed that at least half of the loadings for foreign trade are consigned. Practically no sales are being reported on barreled stock for domestic use.

"The price level for potatoes has shown little fluctuation over a period of several weeks. F.o.b. sales closed yesterday at $2.30-$2.35 for carlots of 150-pound sacks of Round Whites, U. S. No. 1 and partly-graded. The dealers report only fair demand for the potatoes at these figures. Growers received 70¢-75¢ bulk per bushel. The report of January holdings may serve as a stimulus to the market.

"Onions and carrots continued in very light demand and the market for both of these commodities remains dull."

15b. BELOW-ZERO TEMPERATURES IN NORTHERN MAINE

W. D. Hull wrote as follows from Presque Isle in a letter dated January 19:-

"The Maine potato situation has changed very little the past week. Outside markets were dull and wire-inquiry throughout the week was very light. While track-holdings in the principal Maine markets were rather light, city buyers were reluctant to load-up to any extent but preferred to buy on a hand-to-mouth basis.

"By Wednesday, January 14, there was an accumulation of unsold cars and many sales were reported that day on the basis of $1.35 f.o.b. per 100-pounds. Thursday morning, sales were again being made at the old price of $1.40, and the slight weakening of Wednesday's market proved to be only a temporary feature and was considered by several members of the trade to be a good thing, as it served to move the cars on track which were unsold and paved a way for a firmer asking-price, also creating a better feeling in the local market.

"Haulings continued light all the week, especially in localities where the street-price was $1.90 per barrel of ungraded stock. Thursday the weather was colder. On Friday, the official minimum temperature for Presque Isle was 11° below zero, and various unofficial reports from the vicinity of Caribou stated 20° to 26° below. It might be said, in passing, that temperature for Presque Isle is taken at the State Farm, which is on a hill some distance from the village and is often 5° to 8° warmer than it is down in the village. The extreme temperature curtailed haulings from farm storages, but loadings were maintained at about the usual rate from the track-side warehouses.

"On Saturday, January 10, Maine shipments passed the 25,000 mark. Monday, January 19, will probably see them pass 27,000 cars. There is considerable discussion regarding the number that remain to be shipped. Various estimates place the number between 20,000 and 25,000 cars. Shipments for the past week have been heavier than usual, the local dealers saying that city buyers who bought high-priced potatoes last fall have become tired of holding for higher prices and are taking their loss now and shipping their stock to market.

"There is considerable interest shown in the trading in 'futures' on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The opinions as to its outcome and the possible effect on the potato market are many and diverse. Another topic of conversation wherever potato men gather is the report of the stocks on hand as of January 1. The majority think that it will be of some help to the market conditions."

16b. GREEN PEAS SHELLED IN MEXICO ARRIVING IN GOOD CONDITION IN N.Y. CITY

E. R. Biddle sent the following interesting letter from New York on January 17:-

"During the past week or two, we have been receiving small lots of peas from Mexico, which were shelled at the producing end. These peas have arrived in excellent condition, and are packed in one-pound and half-pound cartons, each attractively labelled. The cartons are packed 30 pounds and 30 half-pounds to the crate, making 45 pounds net peas. The cartons are packed in cracked ice, but the peas themselves are kept dry.

"The last shipment sold for $19 per crate, compared with $9.25-$10, mostly $9.50-$9.75, for peas in the shell. This seems to me to be an interesting experiment and probably the start of a change in the shipment method used for this commodity. The extra cost of packing should be more than overcome by the difference in cost of transportation and import duties, and the fact that U.S.Fancy peas in the shell will not produce much more than 40% shelled peas."

By a simple computation, it will be seen that a crate of 45 pounds of peas in the shell will usually yield 18 pounds of the shelled product. If a crate of unshelled peas sells to the jobber at an average of $9.60, this means that the shelled peas from that crate will cost 53¢ per pound. The 45 pounds of shelled peas, mentioned by Mr. Biddle as selling for $19 per crate, would average about 42¢ per pound.

17b. COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF APPLES IN VIRGINIA, JANUARY 1

The following report for Jan. 1 includes only apples stored in 18 storage plants where shipping-point inspections are generally made in Virginia. Cold storages at other points, from which apples are generally removed for local or motor-truck trade, are not included. No northwestern apples are included:-

	BARRELS	BASKETS	BOXES	TOTAL BARRELS
Winchester, Berryville:-	114,723	137,902	-	160,690
Broadway, Harrisonburg:-	25,676	37,965	487	38,493
Staunton, Waynesboro:-	12,764	31,795	-	23,362
Crozet, Charlottesville:-	35,086	66,618	1,316	57,731
Shipman, Arrington, Lynchburg:-	16,424	57,581	8,013	38,288
Roanoke:-	39,000	108,000	-	75,000
TOTAL	243,673	439,861	9,816	393,564

Allowing an average of 180 barrels to the car, the total equals 2,186 cars.

The above holdings are approximately 60% of the holdings of November 1 and 77% of the holdings of December 1. Of the 3,600 cars in the cold storages on November 1, about 21% were shipped during November and 18% during December, with 61% remaining in storage on January 1. The next two weeks will show a comparatively heavy movement of apples from cold storages in the State, particularly from the Winchester section. - (from letter by F. S. Kinsey, Jan. 13)

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will clos.
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	May 1
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 15
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House	894	C. D. Schoolcraft	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Mar. 28
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Apr. 15
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	Apr. 15
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Mar. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 1
			Tomatoes	Feb. 1	May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach	Jan. 5	Feb. 15
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 16	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 16	May 15
			Onions	Mar. 23	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
BRAWLEY, CALIF.,** Planters' Hotel Bldg.	933	L. T. Kirby L. H. Howard	Lettuce	Jan. 5	Mar. 21
SANFORD, FLA.**	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25

** State cooperating
R. H. Lamb in San Francisco

* Reports discontinued.
B. E. Surry in Chicago

W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. DETERMINE NUMBER OF WRAPPER LEAVES ON LETTUCE BY COUNT

Mr. Robb wires from California that there is a variety of lettuce known as No. 6 which has very large, coarse, wrapper leaves. This may give the appearance of improper trimming and yet be within the limits provided in the grades under definitions of trimming. Extreme care must be used in counting the number of wrapper leaves, and the term "leafy" should not be used because it is very indefinite. Attention is again called to the fact that "well-trimmed" means that heads of Iceberg-type lettuce do not have more than six wrapper leaves, and "reasonably well-trimmed" means that heads of Iceberg type do not have more than 12 wrapper leaves.

2c. FLORIDA SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS, JANUARY 1 - 15:

O. G. Strauss has submitted the following report on Florida inspections for the first half of January, with comparative data for previous periods:-

	FRUITS:					Grand
Billing Point	G'fruit	Oranges	Tang's	Mixed	Total	Total
Arcadia	-	1	-	4	5	
Avon Park	-	3	1	-	4	
Dundee	-	6	-	-	6	
Haines City	-	3	-	-	3	
Lake Hamilton	-	2	-	-	2	
Lakemont	10	5	-	8	23	
Palmetto	9	8	-	6	23	
Plant City	2	10	2	10	24	
Sanford	-	2	-	-	2	
Fruit inspections January 1-15	21	40	3	28	92	92
Fruit inspections to December 31	382	378	33	258	1051	
Fruit inspections through January 15	403	418	36	286	1143	1143

	VEGETABLES:							
Billing Point	Cab-bage	Cel-ery	Cukes	Pep-pers	Toma-toes	Mxd. Vegs		
Ft. Myers	-	-	-	6	6	6	18	
Oviedo	-	11	-	-	-	-	11	
Palmetto	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	
Sanford	-	23	-	-	-	-	23	
Sarasota	-	124	-	-	-	-	124	
Vegetable inspections January 1-15	-	163	-	6	6	6	181	181
Vegetable inspections to December 31	2	65	15	52	32	15	181	
Vegetable inspections through January 15	2	228	15	58	38	21	362	362

SUMMARY

Total fruit and vegetable inspections through January 15, 1931 1505
Total fruit and vegetable inspections, period January 1-15, 1931 273

COMPARATIVE DATA

Total to January 15, 1931	1505	Total to January 15, 1928	787
Total to January 15, 1930	734	Total to January 15, 1927	1291
Total to January 15, 1929	1260		

3c. INSPECTION OF POTATOES IN CHICAGO SOLD FOR MARCH DELIVERY

E. E. Conklin, of the Chicago office, sent the following letter under date of January 16:-

"On January 12 trading in potato 'futures' was started on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The trading is entirely for March delivery and covers Idaho Russet potatoes. (It will be remembered that Lloyd S. Tenny, former Chief of our Bureau, is manager of this Exchange.)

"Mr. Tenny has advised me that, as originally planned, they will have Government inspection on all cars offered for delivery. The inspection will be primarily based on U. S. No. 1 Grade, but in addition we will show cars that contain potatoes with a heavy percentage just over the minimum size. Cars of this type are not up to the Exchange specifications.

"Inspections will all be made at the C. & N.W. Wood Street yard and the Produce Terminal yard, Chicago. Cars will be offered for delivery and inspection any time between March 1 and 31. It will be impossible to tell whether many cars will be actually offered for delivery, regardless of the number of transactions. Some time just before inspections start, Mr. Tenny will probably arrange to sign a 500-car agreement, so that they may obtain the $2.50 rate if the tonnage becomes quite sizable."

4c. INTERESTING REPORT ON INDIANA ONIONS AND CANNERY TOMATOES

J. E. Dickerson, in a letter of January 19 from Indianapolis, gave the following report on inspections of cannery tomatoes in Indiana:-

"Perhaps you would be interested in the results of the cannery tomato inspection work last season:-

"We inspected at 38 factories, widely scattered over the State, using 40 inspectors. The first cannery started operations about August 10 and twelve of the factories were still running late in October, due to the unusually long autumn season. We inspected a total of ~~seventeen~~ 179 million pounds (8,500 tons), of which an average of 49.11% graded U. S. No. 1, 45.25% graded U. S. No. 2 and 5.64% were culls. This was a decrease of 1.89% of No. 1's and an increase of 1.45% culls over the preceding year. However, when the work was started in 1927, there was an average of 19% culls, with only 30.4% No. 1's.

"The cost of the service per ton in 1930 ranged from approximately 9¢ at one of the larger factories to 48¼¢ per ton at one of the smaller factories in southern Indiana.

"All the factories were apparently satisfied with the work and, as far as we know now, we will again inspect for these factories in 1931. In addition, 11 additional factories have applied for inspection to date.

"The onion market continues very dull, and it looks now as if there will be much stock that will not be shipped. The prices continue about the same as last fall, before they put the stock in storage, and many operators have been reluctant to sell at those prices after holding their stock most of the winter. My inspectors report that many of the storages are around two-thirds full at this time. Most of the stock that is moving is from those storages which can ship cars containing onions that are 65% to 75% 2 inches in diameter and larger."

5c. NEW CIRCULAR ON ONIONS

Enclosed with this D.L. for each inspector is a copy of Circular 135 on "Blemishes and Discolorations of Market Onions." - R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING DECEMBER, 1930

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1929	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total fees
Atlanta	87	79	14	2	$ 412.50
Baltimore	73	47	0	2	283.00
Boston	153	156	16	1	619.06
Buffalo	19	30	1	0	79.84
Charleston, S.C.	15	-	0	0	60.00
Chicago	415	290	13	1	2,034.54
Cincinnati	59	44	0	0	384.15
Cleveland	16	89	0	0	87.75
Columbus	34	11	0	0	132.24
Denver	41	23	3	0	173.00
Detroit	65	52	0	0	252.00
Fort Worth	22	9	0	0	221.21
Harrisburg	3	1	0	2	10.50
Houston	44	25	1	0	158.65
Indianapolis	19	23	0	0	83.13
Jacksonville	72	15	0	0	288.18
Kansas City	81	104	9	7	322.00
Los Angeles	21	11	6	0	82.00
Memphis	28	56	24	0	127.00
Milwaukee	47	52	0	0	192.00
Minneapolis	22	14	0	2	87.50
Newark	56	55	1	0	241.99
New Haven	44	47	7	0	230.27
New Orleans	164	207	45	0	373.00
New York City	695	536	20	0	2,504.77
Norfolk	23	20	9	1	112.25
Omaha	37	34	1	0	167.97
Philadelphia	127	156	0	0	465.24
Pittsburgh	68	131	2	0	312.56
Portland	5	9	0	0	37.00
Providence	30	31	0	0	146.48
Rochester	18	-	0	0	67.00
Sacramento	0	1	0	0	00
St. Louis	55	110	0	0	266.91
Salt Lake City	2	4	0	0	8.00
San Diego	1	2	0	0	4.00
San Francisco	5	21	4	0	20.42
Seattle	1	1	0	0	11.00
Springfield	52	35	8	0	276.42
Toledo	7	12	1	0	28.00
Trenton	4	4	0	0	16.00
Washington	36	64	1	0	219.57
Wilkes-Barre	11	13	2	0	46.50
Total	2,777	2,624	188	18	$11,645.60

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:- Total 1,550: 1,327 Nickel Plate; 19 B.&O.; 9 Erie; 47 Penna.; 45 Kroger; 23 for Federal Cold Storage.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. CHECK-UP ON LICENSEES.

As rapidly as they can be compiled, lists of licensees by States, arranged alphabetically by cities, are being sent to market news and inspection offices in both the city markets and shipping sections, to be checked as opportunity may offer. Instructions will accompany each list. It is not intended that our men will enter upon a tour of inspection but will make such observation and inquiry as may be possible in connection with their daily work.

The names of all commission merchants, brokers, dealers, and jobbers, who are believed to handle fresh fruits or fresh vegetables, which have been in interstate commerce or are expected to be shipped into another State, should be furnished promptly to the Washington office for investigation. At the same time, a brief outline of the character of the business in which the person is engaged should be given.

H. A. SPILMAN,
Acting in Charge, Regulatory Branch

OFFICE NOTES:

F. G. Robb was in Fresno, Calif., on Thursday; at Watsonville today, and expects to reach San Francisco on Saturday of this week. He will soon start on his return-trip to Washington, stopping at offices of this Division at various points en route to confer with our men.

On January 15 and 16, A. E. Mercker held very successful meetings among potato growers on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The attendance was good and the interest keen. The meetings were conducted at Snow Hill, Pocomoke City and Princess Anne. The outlook for 1931 was discussed. Mr. Mercker returned yesterday from the Chicago trade convention.

H. E. Drobish, Secretary of the Pacific Northwest Potato Committee, arrived in Washington today. Mr. Drobish, whose headquarters are in Boise, Idaho, attended the Chicago trade meetings and has now come to Washington for further conference regarding the work among potato growers, with a view to assisting in the solution of problems of production and marketing.

W. H. Steinbauer, of the Boston inspection office, advises that his residence address has been changed to 756 Watertown Street, West Newton, Mass., and the new phone number is West Newton 2015-M. Please note these changes on your copy of the inspectors' address-list.

C. G. Campbell, editor of "The American Fruit Grower," Chicago, was a visitor in the Washington office on Monday.

Sympathy is extended to Charles Lavender, of the Denver office of the Market News Service, in the death of his mother on Monday.

H. F. Mc Feely and C. D. Cowling, licensees who were assisting with inspection work in New York City, have now completed their period of service in that market.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 5 January 30, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. P.A.C. ACT CREATES MUCH ADDITIONAL WORK

The Regulatory Branch of the Fruit and Vegetable Division reports that, up to January 21, about 11,820 licenses had been issued to commission merchants, brokers, and dealers in different parts of the country, who handle fresh fruits or fresh vegetables in interstate commerce. There are on hand 1,594 applications, with checks to cover the $10 fee. These are awaiting a decision as to whether the business in each case requires that the applicant be licensed. Many applications have been received from growers, who are not required to be licensed if they sell only the produce of their own raising.

The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, as interpreted in the regulations, required all commission merchants, brokers, and dealers who handle fresh fruits or vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce in carload lots, or in equivalent volume in lots of one-quarter carload or more, to be licensed by December 10, 1930. The definition of dealers includes shippers who ship other than their own products; canning factories which buy fresh fruits or vegetables for processing and shipment of the processed goods out of the State; cooperative associations which ship for their members or others; jobbers who buy fresh fruits or vegetables in lots of not less than one-quarter carload; as well as retailers when their purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables in interstate commerce in any calendar year exceed the equivalent of 20 carloads in not less than quarter-carload lots.

Steps are being taken to locate those persons who may be doing business without a license in violation of the Act. It is recognized that many shippers and canners may be delaying the filing of their applications for licenses until spring, when they may resume their operations.

Although Congress provided funds only sufficient to handle the licensing work, the Regulatory Branch has already received 610 complaints of apparent violations. Of this number, 100 were received during December and 96 have been received since January 1. Nearly 300 of these cases have been closed. This has been accomplished with no increase in the Produce Agency Act force, although it has been necessary to put aside much of the work connected with the complaints filed under the Produce Agency Act. Of the 300 closed cases, amicable settlements were effected in 102 cases. Of those remaining, formal complaints have been served on 155 alleged offenders and approximately 60 cases are awaiting formal hearing.
(from B.A.E. News)

2a. WASHINGTON EMPLOYEES RESPOND TO APPEAL FOR FUNDS

The annual drive for the Red Cross and the Community Chest of Washington, D.C., combined is being made this week. Residents of the District are being asked for $100,000 toward the nation-wide fund for drought sufferers, which is being raised by the American Red Cross. The amount asked for the Community Chest is nearly $2,000,000.

By Friday, 63 members of the Fruit and Vegetable Division in the Bieber Building had pledged $437.45, and 29 members of the Regulatory Branch had pledged $255, making a total of $692.45 so far from employees of the Division. A number who are absent on leave or who are out of the city have not yet subscribed.

(This soliloquy found its way into the B.A.E. News editor's basket during the first week of the Agricultural Outlook conferences in Washington. No wonder the "report" got delirious!)-

3a. WHAT A COMMODITY OUTLOOK REPORT THINKS ABOUT

"Gee, I'm next. I hope that crowd doesn't tear me to pieces the way they're doing to this report. I heard one fellow say he thought it was a pretty good one until the Outlook Committee got to work on it. There it goes now; they're carrying it out on a stretcher; poor thing! It's muttering to itself.....

"Well, my Chairman's reading me now. I can't help shaking a little. Suspense is awful. I s'pose a dozen men will jump on me as soon as my last word is pronounced. Whew, here they come!

"OUCH, WAIT A MINUTE!! Oof! Three men gouged me in the first paragraph at one time. Help! Stop jabbing me with those pencils! Get your hooks out of me! Turn loose of my appendix; what do you think I am, a grab-bag? STOP! You're scratching me to pieces!

"Oy - oy - oy - oy! Oh, what a scrimmage that was! I feel as if I'd been through a sausage-grinder. Gosh, I'm no hog report! I never felt so cut-up over anything in my life. You'd think this was a butcher's contest. And just to think - I've got to go through the whole thing again next week!

"Well, they're carrying me out now. How cool the outside air is! How sweetly the birds are singing! Yes, mother, I hear you calling me. I'm to be the Queen of May, mother dear!"

4a. TYPEWRITER FOR EXCHANGE

One of our branch offices desires to exchange an Underwood typewriter in good condition for an L. C. Smith in good condition. If any of our offices desire to make such an exchange, please advise Mrs. E. Mills, of the Washington office.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. MICHIGAN ONION MARKET "SICK"

In a letter of January 24 from Grand Rapids, Mich., R. E. Keller sent the following report on onions and potatoes:-

"The Michigan onion situation is very 'sick.' Prices paid to Michigan farmers are barely paying storage charges. Recent sales have been made mostly at 20¢-35¢ bulk per cwt., according to the quality. It appears that the remaining stocks over the country are so heavy that shippers and farmers are selling at salvage prices, to keep from having an accumulation that will have to be dumped later. Michigan has shipped 3,439 cars of onions to date, and, with only about 10 more weeks left, is confronted with 1,500 to 2,000 cars yet to move. Thus, if market prices will permit, Michigan must ship 15 to 20 cars daily for the next 60 days, to move her crop.

"Both offerings of and demand for Michigan potatoes for the past week continued very light. Many of the dealers now express the opinion that the activity is likely not to be much greater at any time this season. Although a considerable quantity of stock is yet in the farmers' hands, there is much uncertainty as to the volume that will be shipped, after seed-requirements are filled. Potato shipments to date are 1,021 cars, as against 2,230 a year ago and 6,012 in 1929."

2b. IDAHO POTATO "FUTURES" SELLING LOWER THAN "SPOT" CARS

L. C. Tate sent the following brief letter from Idaho Falls on January 22:-

"The Idaho potato market has lately been subject to another minor decline of prices, so that shipping-point trading is again at its former low level for the season, both in volume of sales and in price. Wire orders continue to hold a fair volume, but cash business is very slack.

"The Chicago future trading in Russets is a good indication of what future conditions in Idaho may be. With March deliveries selling considerably cheaper than spot cars in that market, it seems to me any difference of opinion by local operators would influence them to snatch up some of these cheap 'futures' being offered on the Chicago Exchange."

3b. VIRGINIA 1931 OUTLOOK REPORT

Virginia is one of numerous States which issue separate outlook reports of local interest. A copy of the Virginia Bulletin 119, containing this report date January, 1931, has come to the editor's hands. It includes important paragraphs relating to potatoes, sweet potatoes, cabbage, strawberries and peaches, in addition to other farm products of Virginia. The front cover is illustrated by an attractive and telling cartoon.

"THE PRICE SITUATION" for January, 1931, says: Any noticeable improvement in agricultural prices during the next few months would have to arise out of shortages in market supplies, rather than from improvement in industrial demand.

4b. RECENT INFORMATION ON COLORADO CROPS

A letter of January 24 from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, gives the latest news on Colorado potatoes and onions:-

"The past week has been unusually warm throughout practically all sections of Colorado, and the truck movement of potatoes into Denver has shown a slight increase, ranging from 300 to 430 sacks daily. The Denver potato market has been steady all week. Dealers on the street have reported the best business since last October and seem well pleased with trading. Perhaps part of this is due to the fact that the 25th Annual Stock Show was held here during that time, but a general improvement was noticed.

"Potato shipments from the San Luis Valley have been comparatively light. Prices to outside points weakened slightly, and demand has been very slow for usual-terms and delivered sales, which has caused dealers to offer slightly lower prices. However, with more than two-thirds of the Valley crop moved to date, the farmers in that district are holding firmly and are generally refusing to sell No. 1 Brown Beautys under 95¢, although a few sales have been made at 90¢. No. 1 Red McClures were bringing the growers 95¢-$1.

"Northern Colorado, commonly known as the Greeley district, has had shipments ranging from 10 to 26 cars per day this week. Growers have been receiving 60¢-80¢ per cwt., according to quality and appearance, with most sales of Standard Grade Rurals at 75¢ per cwt. The farmers seem reluctant to sell under 75¢, but, if prices do not improve, loadings will have to continue moderate at least on account of the heavy holdings.

"The Montrose district on the Western Slope has shown considerable activity this week. Their crop is only slightly over one-third shipped, compared with over one-half shipped at this time in 1930, counting the Montrose and Carbondale sections as a unit. Farmers have been receiving around 70¢-75¢ for People's Russets and Rurals and 90¢-95¢ on Carbondale Russets, with the Red Soil Russets as high as $1.25-$1.35 per cwt.

"Onion shipments in the Arkansas Valley have been relatively steady this week. Prices have been practically unchanged, with demand for larger sizes moderate and small sizes light. A portion of the Arkansas Valley onion crop is moving in Spanish-style crates, bringing around $1.10 per crate f.o.b. on 50's.

"Demand for onions has been very slow on the Western Slope recently, with shipments quite light. Farmers have been receiving 20¢-25¢ per cwt."

5b. LOUISIANA FARMERS PLANTING POTATOES

In a letter of January 24, J. W. Coleman, of the New Orleans office, sent the following bit of news:-

"Farmers in Louisiana have been planting potatoes for several days. Most of the seed stock is certified Nebraska Bliss Triumphs, and many of the growers are planting more seed to the acre than last year, as well as increasing the acreage. If yields are good, the carlot shipments from Louisiana in 1931 should total 3,000 cars of potatoes. Last year, about 2,300 cars were shipped."

5½b. ANOTHER MARKETING SUMMARY

This week, a summary has been distributed on "Marketing Texas Bermuda Onions, 1930 Season," by J. B. Owens and C. D. Schoolcraft.

6b. PLENTY OF TEXAS SPINACH THIS SEASON

M. G. Longino, market-news representative at the San Antonio office, sent the following report in a letter dated January 17:-

"The elements of nature seem to be assisting spinach-shippers of the Winter Garden area in the orderly marketing of their crop. On Thursday, January 15, intentions were to load all the cars possible, for the market was in fairly-good condition. In four hours' time, 63 cars were loaded. Then it started raining and continued for 36 hours. All shippers agree that, if the rain had not come at that time, the terminal markets would have been glutted with spinach.

"Bud-worm injury affected considerable of the stock and this helped to cut down shipments. About 50% of the cars shipped during December graded U. S. No. 1, but the quality became so poor early in January that many shippers called-off inspection. The quality is fast improving, for new fields are coming in and the older stock is outgrowing the injury.

"Prices have held fairly firm since Christmas, averaging around 45¢ per bushel f.o.b. cash track. They have never been higher than 55¢ or lower than 40¢ per bushel. This is a narrow range of trading, but the supplies are moving and everyone making a small profit. With a bountiful supply of spinach available, shippers are glad to turn each car when loaded. Very few wire-order sales are being made, as practically all trading is on an f.o.b. cash-track basis, even if the cars are rolling.

"On several different occasions it has been almost impossible to sell a car at any price; the buyers were afraid of the market. The shippers would lighten-up on the cuttings and, in almost every instance of that kind, the buyers would be clamoring for rollers before they reached the diversion points."

7b. IMPORTANCE OF NEW YORK AS A CONSUMING CENTER

An editorial in The New York Times for January 19 says: "The continuous flow of fresh vegetables into the New York City market during the dead of winter is a really amazing feature of twentieth-century life, though most of us take it as a matter of course. Forty-three States and fifteen foreign countries contribute to the supply of fruits and vegetables for the metropolitan area of Greater New York. During January, fresh peas sold in New York have been shipped from Mexico, potatoes from Bermuda, beets from Bermuda and Jamaica, cabbage from The Netherlands, tomatoes from Bermuda, Cuba and the West Indies, and onions from Chile, Spain and Italy. These are in addition to the produce sent from sections of this country which have crops that mature during the winter months. The city market, as we know it today, is largely the result of the refrigerator-car and the increase in transportation facilities, which make it possible for apples from the Wenatchee and Yakima Valleys of Washington, potatoes from Idaho and peas from Mexico to compete on the New York market in quality and price with the same products grown in nearby States. The first carlot shipment of vegetables arrived in New York as recently as forty years ago; now, on the average, nearly 900 carloads of fruits and vegetables arrive daily. Only 6.4% of the fresh vegetables sold in New York are grown in this State. The rest travel an average distance of 1,500 miles."

8b. MAINE POTATO PRICES TENDING DOWNWARD

Further news on Maine potatoes was sent by W. D. Hull in a letter of January 26 from Presque Isle:-

"Continued cold weather of the past week did not bring any improvement in the Maine potato market. The severe weather kept haulings at a minimum, but loadings were heavy from the warehouses along railroad-sidings.

"The street price is slowly adjusting itself to lack of active demand and the lower prices in the terminal markets. On Monday, the street price was $1.90-$2. By Wednesday, it was mostly $1.90, while by Saturday the majority of the dealers were paying $1.85 per barrel measure. It has taken the growers some little time to reajust their ideas to the new price and, even should the weather moderate sufficiently to permit liberal haulings, it is extremely doubtful that haulings will be very heavy for some time yet, as many growers are still holding for a $2 market.

"Wire inquiry was very light all over the county last week. Here in Presque Isle, the total number of wires received daily was one-third to one-fourth less than the usual number during the shipping season. Brokers reported a fair inquiry but experienced great difficulty in getting their orders filled at prices which the outside dealers were willing to pay. Many orders that would net about $1.30 f.o.b. on 100-pound sacks were unfilled. It is the general opinion of brokers that the market is on bottom at the present time.

"Carlot shipments from Maine this season have passed 28,500 and are slightly over 4,000 cars behind last year's record at this time. Despite the heavier shipments of the past two weeks, this ratio remains unchanged from what it was in the middle of December.

"Demand for seed stock was slower, especially during the latter part of the week. Selected seed is in fair demand, there being very little certified seed sold for prompt shipment. Selected Cobblers are practically the only variety on which there is any activity. Most of these have been going to the Carolinas during the last two weeks. The same is true for certified seed. Prices on selected Cobblers declined about 10¢ per 10-peck sack during the past week. Dealers report some inquiry for Green Mountains by buyers who are feeling-out the market, it being a little early for many actual sales to be made except for future delivery, and very little of that is being done this season."

9b. CHANGES ON "SUPPLEMENT TO T AND V" PAGE OF CODE (Effective February 6)

On the supplement to the price page, strike out the words "per pound" appearing after the terminals UR, US, UT. These will then read:

UR	1/4¢
US	1/2¢
UT	3/4¢

This change will enable the symbols to be used in quoting strawberries, when they are selling at prices which involve the fraction of a cent per pint or per quart. It will, for example, be possible to say "TEGUS" for 22½¢ instead of writing "TEGEG HALF;" and 40¼¢ can be expressed by "TIDUR," instead of as "TIDID QUARTER."

10b. FURTHER REPORTS ON FLORIDA BERRIES AND CELERY

The following interesting letter came from R. M. Peterson, at Plant City, under date of January 26:-

"All estimates on strawberry movement are dependent almost entirely on weather conditions and are therefore unreliable. When I stated in my last report that the movement for this past week would be about the same as the week previous, I guessed better than I knew. The shipments last Monday amounted to 15 cars, and it then looked as though the total for the week would be double that of the previous week. It rained all day Tuesday, but this did not stop the pickers and the shipments for that day also amounted to 15 cars. The rain and cool weather retarded ripening, and the loadings for the balance of the week were light, resulting in a total movement of 52 cars, which was practically the same as that of the preceding week. These shipments were divided as follows: 22 freight, 14 express, and the equivalent of 16 cars of pony refrigerators, which always move as l.c.l. shipments.

"The frost on Wednesday night killed from 50% to 75% of the open bloom in the unprotected fields, but apparently did no damage to the berries themselves. From 15% to 20% of the fields were covered. Pine straw is used mostly for covering, but board troughs are used by some of the growers, and I noticed one field that was covered with heavy wrapping paper, weighted-down with soil. Quality of the berries was much poorer the last half of the week, the fruit being watersoaked and poorly-colored. The berries hauled this morning showed considerable improvement; in fact, some loads were quite fancy. If the warm bright weather of yesterday and today continues until the end of this week, the total movement should double that of last week, and the quality should be very good.

"Although the price of strawberries at shipping-point dropped from 17½¢ per pint on Monday to 13¢ on Friday, the tone of the market was steady, the decline in price really being a matter of quality. Some recovery was noticed on Saturday. Practically all of the northern markets held steady, but the movement was very slow at prices that were rather low, considering the cost at loading-stations. The shippers have tried all week to lower the prices paid to growers, but the supply is limited and there is plenty of competition.

"Celery movement from the Manatee-Sarasota section amounted to around 75 cars last week, which is the estimated movement for this week. Most of the stock continues to show some pithiness and will not grade U. S. No. 1. The demand has been fairly good, with no change in prices, the desirable sizes bringing $2.25 per crate for crate-washed and precooled stock, and $2.50 for individually-washed and precooled stock."

11b. FROST AGAIN HITS SOUTHERN FLORIDA

V. H. Nicholson sent the following report in a letter of January 24 from Miami:-

"Another cold wave visited Florida this week and, before it was over, there was plenty of frost in practically all sections of the East Coast. The temperature here in Miami fell to 37° Wednesday night and there was much frost within a few blocks of the bay. The temperature at Dania dropped to 28° and the minimum at Pompano was reported as 27°. Thin ice was observed at both these points. The minimum at Homestead was about 40°, according to Mr. Steffani, County Agent there.

(continued over)

"There was frost at Clewiston and Moore Haven on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee, but there was little growing in that section. The Belle Glade Experiment Station, about three miles southeast of Belle Glade, reported a minimum of 32° and a heavy frost, but no frost was reported at Canal Point. The damage around the Lake was, therefore, limited to damage from cold winds which blew during the greater part of Wednesday night. The minimum temperature at Ft. Myers was 44° and, while the local office of the American Fruit Growers reported a very light frost, there was no apparent damage.

"It now appears that the damage from frost in other sections will be rather light. Most sections had plenty of rain before the frost and were in a fair condition to withstand low temperatures. Some of the beans around Pompano and Ft. Lauderdale were killed, but the actual loss is probably less than 10%. However, the injury to young beans and blossoms will probably cause a rather heavy reduction in yields during the next two weeks. But, according to shippers around Pompano, there have been practically no frosted beans offered during the last two days. There was also some damage to the peppers in that section, but it will be limited to injury of quality and loss of yield. The actual acreage of peppers killed is probably less than 5%.

"Around Homestead, a few beans and squash were scorched and this damage was estimated at 25% to 35% of the light acreages of those crops grown there. The frost-damage to tomatoes has been variously estimated at practically none to as high as 15%. The acreage killed is very light, and the recent rains have probably done more damage to the tomato crop than the cold weather. As a result of the frost and the cold rainy weather, quality of the shipments during the next week or 10 days may be expected to be rather ordinary. A few growers are of the opinion that the cold weather has injured the bloom and may cause a reduction in yields, but that damage is not yet noticeable.

"Because of the somewhat speculative demand brought about by the frost-predictions on Wednesday, the market for fairly good beans at Pompano advanced to mostly $5.50-$6.50, with a few best lots selling at $7-$8 per bushel hamper. The market advanced about 50¢ on Thursday, but on Friday was back to mostly $5.50-$6.50, with a few small lots of good-quality stock selling as high as $9. There has been a very wide range in quality of the stock offered at Pompano this week and it is expected that most offerings will be of only fair quality for several days.

"Movement of peppers from Pompano increased somewhat during the last week. Most lots of Fancy sold around $2.50 on Monday and Tuesday, but yesterday the market was down to $2-$2.25, with most of the sales at the lower figure.

"The demand for tomatoes has been extremely slow, with most of the inquiries stipulating that the stock be of good quality and that it arrive in good condition. The cold weather and rains have injured the quality, and plenty of Phoma Rot has been developing in transit. Only occasional sales have been reported. Yesterday a few cars of six-basket carriers sold on the basis of $1.75 for the Fancy count and 75¢ for the Choice. Shippers have been quoting $1.25 for lugs packed 6x6, but I know of no sales at that price."

ST. LOUIS last year received 9,704,500 pounds (4,852 tons) of horseradish,- 5,593,300 pounds from Illinois and 4,111,200 from Missouri.

12b. DULL, DRAGGY MARKETS IN WESTERN NEW YORK

A letter of January 27 from R. L. Sutton, at Rochester, gives the following information on western New York crops:-

"Most cabbage dealers in the western and central sections of New York feel rather discouraged as to the outcome of the deal. Values have held at low levels for several weeks. Now that southern States, especially Texas, are supplying important volumes to competitive markets, the local operators are of the opinion that about the only thing to save them would be a damaging-freeze in the South. The track holdings at shipping points have been fairly well cleaned-up, in some cases at prices which showed a net loss to the shipper. Dealers at present are holding-off from buying, being reluctant to pay over $8 per ton to the grower, and the latter in turn is not inclined to turn loose at this price. There are probably in the neighborhood of 2,000 cars of cabbage remaining in this territory.

"Slightly-improved trading has developed recently in apples. There is, however, more attention being given to the lower grades of fruit. Buyers are asking for classes that they can purchase around $1 in bushels. Some Utility Greenings are selling, and through brokers too, for as low as 85¢. The export inquiry is showing some improvement. First-grade Greenings for this class of trade will rarely sell for more than $3.75 per barrel f.o.b. There is reported to be considerable variation in the condition of the Greenings at this time. Scald is becoming more pronounced and Bitter Pit is also a factor of importance. So far this season 11,261 cars have moved from the State. This is double the corresponding movement of last season.

"The situation in potatoes remains generally unchanged. Dealers are buying from the growers at 70¢-75¢ per bushel of bulk stock and are selling car-lots in 150-pound sacks mostly around $2.30 f.o.b. Southern cities continue to take a large percentage of the shipments from this region. Pennsylvania cities offer an important outlet, with Washington and Baltimore taking more than the average. Fluctuations in the Maine potato market are quickly followed by corresponding reactions in the western New York territory.

"Onions continue dull and are generally neglected, in so far as f.o.b. business is concerned. A few sales daily have been made at 70¢-80¢, with some medium-sized stock going as low as 65¢ per 100-pound sack. It is generally understood that large quantities remain in the hands of growers. The movement has been held down, but from now on, even though values do not enhance, loadings will show an increase. February often shows improvement in onion prices, and it is hoped that the month just approaching will show this tendency.

"Daily shipments of carrots have been averaging about 10 cars. The f.o.b. demand has been very slow, with sales almost a minus quantity. The 100-pound sacks of cut carrots in the rough sell occasionally at 60¢. Yesterday some washed carrots in bushels changed hands at 50¢. The situation is deplorable."

13b. A WEEKLY REVIEW OF NEW ORLEANS MARKET

On Saturday, January 3, J. W. Coleman began issuing a weekly review of the New Orleans fruit and vegetable market. This review covers one long sheet and Mr. Coleman advises that it is being used by local newspapers and radio stations. Copies also are sent to the regular mailing-list.

14b. EXPLANATION OF "TOO FEW SALES TO QUOTE" WHEN SHIPMENTS ARE HEAVY

Criticism is frequently made of various f.o.b. reports, because of the use of the phrases "too few sales to quote" or "too few sales to establish market," with no other qualifying phrases, while daily shipments are heavy from the particular producing sections. Such a condition with regard to shipping-point sales is, of course, not unusual. But it is suggested that, in all such cases, some further explanation be made, such as "many of present shipments are on previous sales, some consigned" or "most shipments consigned or rolled unsold," etc.

15b. FURTHER COMMENTS REGARDING UNLOAD REPORTS

A question has been raised as to just how much material is to be included in the third table of the monthly unload reports, as outlined in Par. 13b of the D.L. for January 16. This table is to include only the carlot unloads and boat receipts of commodities by States of origin. The l.c.l. and truck receipts (where available) are to be listed in additional and separate tables, but in setting-up the material for the D.L. this was not clearly indicated.

For offices which obtain truck receipts on only a few special commodities, such as strawberries, grapes, etc., it is suggested that no attempt be made to show the last table indicated, - that of combined receipts. This tabulation should be used only for those markets where fairly complete figures are being obtained on truck or l.c.l. receipts.

16b. NEW ORLEANS MARKET REPORTS COMPLIMENTED

The Times-Picayune, one of the leading morning papers of the South, having a daily circulation of more than 100,000 copies, is publishing the market reports as issued by our New Orleans office. Under date of January 2, the Commercial Department of the paper wrote the following letter to J. W. Coleman, in charge of the New Orleans news-service:-

"This is to inform you that, since the opening of your service at New Orleans, there has been an almost complete elimination of complaints, bringing into question the accuracy of quotations on fruits and vegetables on this market. It appears true that the quotations supplied represent an accurate picture of the condition of the market here and aid in the orderly handling of produce.

"It seems to me that the quotations, the auction prices, and the report on cars on track help to eliminate waste and make for confidence between the shippers and local distributors. At least, we have found these things important enough to devote to them considerable news-space."

17b. A NEW PRODUCE PAPER

Another monthly magazine has been added to the already-extensive list of produce papers. Volume 1, Number 1 of "The Fruit Dealer" was published in December, 1930. It is the official organ of the Philadelphia Produce Dealers' Association. The first issue contains 32 pages and includes articles by J. G. Scott on the Market News Service and by W. R. Whitacre (also of the Philadelphia office) on the Philadelphia produce market of 101 years ago.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. WASHINGTON SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING NOVEMBER

The "Inspection Letter" issued at Yakima, Wash., on January 20 contained the following report of shipping-point inspections made in the State of Washington during November, 1930:-

Apples	6,644	Mixed F. & V.	15
Celery	1	Pears	337
Lettuce	7	Potatoes	303
Mixed fruit	13	Rutabagas	9
Mixed vegetables	4	Spinach	37
		Total:	7,370

About 30,180 inspections were made between July 1 and the end of November, 1930.

2c. ERRORS ON CERTIFICATES

A common error in writing certificates seems to be misspelled words. While this may not often change the meaning, it does not improve the appearance of a certificate and may result in the reader losing confidence in the inspector's ability.

Each certificate should be properly punctuated, which is another important point that should be given more attention.

The typewritten statements on the certificates should begin immediately following the printed heading, and the practice of leaving considerable space between the printed headings and the typewritten statements should be discontinued, as it does not make a neat appearance. Each typewritten statement should be in line with the printed heading. When these statements appear two or three spaces below the printed heading, it may confuse the reader as to which heading on the certificate the typewritten statement refers.

No matter how carefully the inspection is made, a faulty certificate may create such a bad impression as to make the whole operation of little or no value. Since the ability of an inspector is often judged by the manner in which his certificates are prepared, it is therefore important to exercise great care in checking over each certificate after it is typed and before it is signed. The inspector cannot blame anyone else for typographical errors which appear over his signature.

3c. FIELD ROTS OF NORTHWESTERN APPLES

With this D.L., each city inspection office east of Denver will receive a copy of memorandum by Dr. L. F. Butler, of B.P.I., entitled "Names for Field Rots of Northwestern Apples." Offices having a large number of inspectors will receive several copies of the memorandum.

INSPECTION of 6,057 carloads of fruits and vegetables at Louisiana shipping points during 1930, the largest number ever inspected in any year, is reported by Louisiana Extension Service.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 1
VIRGINIA:	F. S. Kinsey, P.O. Box 361, Winchester, Va.	Apples	Sept. 1	Feb. 15
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 1	Apr. 1
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Sweet-potatoes	Sept. 1	Mar. 1
		Citrus	Nov. 5	Mar. 1
		Vegetables	Nov. 5	Mar. 1
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas	Citrus	Oct. 1	Mar. 1
		Vegetables	Nov. 20	Mar. 1
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.	Fruits & vegetables	Oct. 27	Mar. 1
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1

REPORTS regarding Ohio shipping-point inspections can be obtained by addressing M. W. Baker, at our Columbus office.

Indiana shipping-point inspection reports can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Court House, Warsaw, Indiana.

Reports regarding shipping-point inspections of Tennessee sweet-potatoes can be obtained from Nelson B. Rue, Division of Markets, Nashville.

ASPARAGUS acreage for harvest in South Carolina this spring shows an increase of 300 acres over last year when cuttings were made from 8,500 acres. Growers have taken care of their plantings and prospects are for a larger yield than in 1930. The abandonment of old acreages of asparagus in Georgia continues to more than balance the new plantings. It is estimated that Georgia has 4,000 acres for cutting this spring, compared with 4,240 last year.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman was in Trenton, N.J., on Thursday and Friday of this week. He addressed the New Jersey State Potato Association on "The Place of Grades and Standards in Potato Marketing." Two addresses also were given before the New Jersey State Horticultural Society, - one on the general subject of standardization of fruits and vegetables and another on "The Present Status and Future Prospects of the Export Market for Apples."

Ralph G. Risser, of California, has been appointed as an Assistant Marketing Specialist, and will report for training in the Chicago office of the Market News Service next Monday, February 2. Mr. Risser received his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois. From 1917 to 1919, he was employed as a Truck-Crop Specialist by this Department in California and other western States. During the next 10 years, he was manager of the crop production department of the California Vegetable Union at Los Angeles. Mr. Risser has also been identified with the Pacific Coast fruit-growing industry in the ownership and operation of pear and peach orchards.

W. A. Hilgeson, who has been serving as Federal Supervising Inspector of apples at Wenatchee, Wash., since last August, completes his period of duty there this week and will report for further duty in the Chicago office of the Inspection Service.

It is assumed that E. L. Ruch, who was supervising inspections of winter-crop lettuce at Phoenix, Arizona, has finished that work for the present and has returned to his headquarters in California.

After nearly nine years of very-effective service as a market-news representative, Ralph H. Lamb has been officially transferred to the Radio Service of the Department, as Western Program Manager with headquarters in the Appraiser's Building, San Francisco. Mr. Lamb was appointed to the Market News Service about June 1, 1922. During most of the time he has operated temporary field stations in producing districts, and recently has been in charge of our field work along the Pacific Coast. For about two years he was in charge of the Kansas City office. Mr. Lamb's departure from the News Service is regretted, although he will continue to represent our work through radio broadcasts. C. J. Hansen, of the San Francisco office, however, does the actual broadcasting each Friday noon for the Fruit and Vegetable Division.

J. B. Owens, who was temporarily in the Atlanta office, went to Sanford, Fla., about a week ago and has now begun issuing the usual market reports on celery at Sanford.

Tomato market reports were begun at Miami, Fla., on January 16. This is the only change on the list of temporary field stations of the Market News Service.

Congratulations are extended to Maurice Downes, Jr., who assists with the laboratory tests of packages in Washington, on his marriage January 16 to Miss Helen G. Eiring, of Salisbury, Mo. Mrs. Downes has been employed for some time in the State Department, here in Washington.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

F. S. Kinsey, Federal Supervising Inspector in Virginia, came from Winchester yesterday to confer with members of the Washington staff.

H. A. Spilman and L. C. Carey left Washington on January 26 for Trenton, N.J., to appear before the grand jury in connection with charges against Kinzy Apgar, pertaining to the enforcement of the Standard Container Act of 1928.

O. N. Harsha and R. H. Shoemaker went to Richmond last Monday for the purpose of making investigations under the Produce Agency Act and the Standard Container Act. They probably will return by the end of this week.

Field men of the News Service are requested to watch carefully the weekly table of field stations in the D.L. If that list fails to include all products on which you are issuing reports, please advise the D.L. editor promptly. Watch the dates, also. We desire the list to be complete and accurate.

Many members of the Washington staff have been very busy, working on the annual outlook reports, scheduled for release on Monday, February 2. About 50 representatives from the various interested States are attending the outlook conferences in Washington this week.

We are glad to welcome back to the market-news staff A. E. Prugh, who resigned about two years ago, to accept a position in Cincinnati with the S. A. Gerrard Company. Mr. Prugh formerly operated field stations in the West, and will take up the work on lettuce market reports at Brawley, Calif., about Thursday of next week (Feb. 5). He will fill the position vacated by R. H. Lamb. Mr. Prugh planned to start by automobile from Cincinnati today. His wife will be remembered as Miss Psyche Clemens, formerly of the Kansas City market-news office.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. WATCH YOUR STEP!

This is a restatement of Bureau policy for the guidance of all our field forces. Many new men have entered the service since we have had occasion to publish anything of this sort in the Division Letter, and many older men may have forgotten how definite and consistent the policy of the Bureau has been in these matters:

(1) State Legislation:- No one representing the Bureau is permitted to take such a position that he can be justly accused of publicly promoting or opposing any particular piece of State legislation, no matter how severely he thinks his own work or the work of the Department may be hampered by its passage, modification, or repeal. When new legislation is proposed, which affects the fruit and vegetable industry, its advocates are likely to seek our support, or at least to obtain our aid or suggestions in connection with the drafting of the bill. If we render this assistance, it may be proclaimed that we are in favor of the measure. If then the bill is opposed by other interests in the State, it is difficult for us to avoid participation in the controversy, which should be regarded as none of our affair. If it ever seems necessary to state in advance what effect a legislative proposal will have on any Federal activity, the question should be referred to this office for reply. The field men must above all things avoid entangling alliances and their resultant animosities.

(2) State Personnel:- It is none of our business how the Governor of a State exercises his powers of appointment and dismissal. By his action we may lose the advantage of cooperating with an official who understands our work and is in hearty sympathy therewith, and we may find in his place a man who knows little or nothing of our activities and whose natural inclination is to inaugurate new policies and perhaps undo much which his predecessor has done. Such situations create temporary difficulties for our organization, but they are incident to our form of government and must be borne with calmness and sympathetic patience. Even though a field man be thoroughly convinced that the election, appointment, or removal of any individual will result in positive injury to our work, he must not allow this opinion to become publicly known; nor is he permitted to express himself in such a way that he may be publicly so quoted. If the Governor or head of the Department or Board of Agriculture of any State should express an unwillingness to continue to cooperate with some one of our employees because that employee had expressed antagonism to the State officer himself prior to his election or appointment, it is difficult to see how this Bureau could do otherwise than accede to his request, however disadvantageous to our employee the necessary change may be. In short,

the internal political affairs of the individual States are none of our concern. Our problem arises only when we begin to deal with the individuals who are actually in office. We must not discuss troubles which have not yet arisen in such a way as to give offense to those with whom later cooperation may be necessary.

(3) State and Federal Policy:- There are many different State laws on the subject of grading, standardization, and inspection of fruits and vegetables. These industries in some States seem to feel that their prosperity is absolutely dependent upon the exercise of the police powers of the State. Sentiment in these States is likely to change rather slowly, if at all. There are other States in which such legislation is more recent and may still be regarded by most of the growers as experimental. There are other States in which the present tendency is to repeal mandatory grading laws. This is particularly true with reference to the apple grading laws of the northeastern States. We are still likely to see repeated experimental legislation of this kind. Such Acts are often promoted by the leaders in the industry who are enthusiastic supporters of our services, who feel sure that such legislation will cause an immediate improvement in the quality of the goods moved to market, with consequent better prices and increased prosperity for the industry and the State.

It is perhaps natural for field men to feel and express a sympathetic interest in such movements, but remember THIS IS ENTIRELY CONTRARY TO DEPARTMENTAL POLICY.

THIS BUREAU HAS NEVER ADVOCATED MANDATORY GRADING LEGISLATION CONCERNING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. Every field man should make this statement to every person who approaches him on the subject. Do not say that we are opposed to it but say that we have never advocated it and, when responsible officers of a State or State Legislature have asked advice on mandatory grading legislation, WE HAVE ALWAYS ADVISED AGAINST IT. A statement of all the reasons would require too much space for a Division Letter item, but this is the fact as to the Bureau policy in this matter, and every member of the force must be governed by it. The Bureau believes that grades should be aids in marketing. If they are aids they will be used voluntarily as a result of economic pressure. Men yield to economic pressure more gracefully and with less feeling of martyrdom than when they yield to a police regulation which costs them money, for it cannot be denied that a mandatory requirement to grade a product in accordance with a fixed standard does require the expenditure of cash by the grower in order to obey the statute, even though he be convinced that he derives no advantage from doing so. When economic pressure compels him to grade his products, he has no complaint, for he then assumes the cost of grading willingly because he believes that it pays him to do so.

(4) Political Activity:- Employees who have a Civil Service status are forbidden by law to engage in any political activity. This has been construed to mean that we must not express ourselves publicly on any question which is to be voted upon. This may create a difficult situation for employees who have a Civil Service status and who are also employees of a State. In the latter capacity they may be expected by the State administration of which they are a part to advocate publicly certain measures for which the State administration desires support in the Legislature. Such joint employees should explain to their superiors in the State government that their Civil Service status under the Federal government precludes

rendering any such aid in obtaining or preventing legislation. They are no more at liberty to advocate and oppose measures than they are to advocate and oppose candidates. When a State avails itself of the services of a man who has a Civil Service status under the Federal government, the State must accept the limitations which Federal laws place upon him with respect to political activity. There is no objection to explaining to State officers or to committees of the Legislature, or to any other individuals or groups actually responsible for final action, the advantages and disadvantages from an administrative point of view of any proposed legislation which affects the work of the employee. Even such discussion, however, would not be permissible in a public political meeting, which was designed to influence the voters.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. CAN YOU SEE "THE B.A.E. NEWS" REGULARLY EACH WEEK?

Occasionally, items of interest to field men are copied from "The B.A.E. News" into our Division Letter. A question has been raised as to the policy of reprinting such articles. It has been done simply on the assumption that not all of our F. & V. field men see "The B.A.E. News" regularly each week. If this assumption is incorrect, we desire to know about the matter at once.

Will all F. & V. Division employees who do NOT have opportunity to see "The B.A.E. News" regularly please so advise the editor of our Division Letter promptly? Those who can see and read the "Bureau News" each week need not reply.

3a. EARLY-POTATO BULLETIN REVISED

"Marketing the Commercial Crop of Early Potatoes" is the title of Department Circular No. 149, which has recently come from the press. The author is J. W. Park, of Mr. Pailthorp's project. This circular or bulletin of 44 pages is, in part at least, a revision and an enlargement of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1316, which was originally published in 1923.

4a. ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF UNLOADS IN CITY MARKETS

The several market stations of the Market News Service are beginning to publish their annual summaries of unloads of fruits and vegetables. Some of these booklets for 1930 have already reached the Washington office. Most of them are nicely decorated by sketches or drawings on the front cover. Arrangement of the material in the various reports shows considerable improvement over that of previous years.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. NEW YORK APPLES IN DEMAND FOR EXPORT TRADE

R. L. Sutton sent the following report from Rochester in a letter of February 3:-

"In the movement of apples from western New York, the cars billed for export have held a conspicuous place. The demand from foreign markets has been very well maintained. Some shippers report inability to fill certain of the export-orders. For instance, Ben Davis are becoming scarce, some localities being entirely cleaned-up on this variety. And Rhode Island Greenings, that will meet specifications, are not too plentiful. So far this season from the western New York territory, approximately 2,200 cars have moved to the New York City harbor for foreign shipment. Dealers report wide variation in the condition of Greenings at this time. The storage date for this variety has passed the most favorable period. For the domestic trade, the cheap classes of apples are in greater demand. The most desirable Baldwins in bushel tubs will not command more than $1.50 f.o.b., with similar classes of Greenings ranging $1.25-$1.30.

"Although the State of Texas shipped few cars of cabbage last week, the market situation in this territory has shown no benefit through the let-up in the harvest at lower Rio Grande Valley points. It is a matter of speculation as to the effect of the abnormally heavy rainfall on the cabbage crop in Texas. It is calculated that market conditions will show some improvement this week. F.o.b. sales here are holding mostly at $12 per ton for bulk stock and $14 for sacked. Dealers are not inclined to buy, even at the prevailing price of $8 cash to growers.

"Potatoes have moved slowly under a light demand. The price to growers was lowered since our last report, the prevailing figure at this time being 65¢ bulk per bushel. It is apparent that dull potato markets are existing at all shipping points and in the terminals. Maine reports heavy shipments, but light trading on a dull market. This condition existing day after day must indicate heavy consignments and important volumes at diversion points awaiting sale.

"Onions are very cheap at western and central New York points, but are even cheaper in some of the competing States. Carlot sales in very limited numbers are being made at 60¢-80¢ for 100-pound sacks of U. S. No. 1 Yellows ranging 60% to 75% 2-inches and larger. Since the early part of last week, 80¢ sales have not been realized, top prices now being fully 5¢ less. Carrots continue very inactive."

2b. ACTION DELAYED REGARDING PLAIN BAGS FOR IDAHO POTATOES

Items in the trade papers and letters from L. C. Tate, of our Idaho Falls office, have recently said considerable regarding the proposed amendment to the Idaho grading and branding law, by which it was proposed to allow the optional use of plain bags in shipping mixed grades or ungraded potatoes from points in Idaho. The State Senate last Saturday voted against the amendment, which means an indefinite suspension of action in the matter, and it probably will not come up again in the present term of the Legislature.

3b. MUCH RAIN IN LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS

Continued rains have held up the movement of vegetables from the Rio Grande Valley, according to a letter of January 31 from W. D. Googe at Brownsville:-

"During the last two weeks, marketing of lower Rio Grande Valley vegetables has been hampered by continuous rains. According to the weather reports, precipitation during the month of January, 1931, exactly equals the 59-year record. Today the sun is shining again, but cloudy and unsettled weather is predicted for the next 24 hours. Some cabbage has been loaded, the growers being paid mostly $10 per ton. Most of the loadings have been placed on previous orders, around $15 f.o.b. usual terms. It is reported that a large volume is ready to cut, and, if the fields become dry enough, shipments will quickly approach the 200-car mark daily. Many meetings have been held by growers and shippers, for they are rather gloomy over the outlook, but so far no satisfactory solution has been agreed upon.

"Carrots and beets have strengthened somewhat under the light loadings, but they likewise will be loaded in large quantities, when the weather will permit. Spinach is in good demand, due to light shipments. Loadings are very light, while the fields are wet.

"The rain has been slow and drizzling. Only on one day was it heavy enough to interfere with traffic, but the continuous moisture has the ground saturated. Damage to crops is reported to be slight, except in low spots where drainage is poor."

4b. POTATO SITUATION RATHER DISCOURAGING IN WISCONSIN

On January 31, C. D. Schoolcraft sent the following report from Waupaca, Wis.:-

"The Wisconsin potato market has been very dull the greater part of the past two weeks, and during the past couple of days has weakened 5¢-10¢ to a level of $1.15-$1.20 per cwt. for the average run of No. 1 Round Whites. Some sales of better-grade northern stock and occasional cars of good Cobblers are bringing slightly more. The price to growers is generally 90¢ per cwt. and haulings are light at most points, although there has been a slight increase in the movement from farms in some sections. A January, spoken of by 'old-timers' as one of the mildest and most-open in the history of this section, is causing some sprouting in the warehouses and, while this is not serious as yet, it may serve to bring about an earlier spring movement of stock than would otherwise be the case.

"Shipments are holding slightly above 50 cars a day. A fairly uniform movement is maintained, regardless of any changes in the market. It is my opinion that the majority of the shippers have about given up hope of any big improvement in the market and will heave a sigh of relief when this deal is over."

4½b. ASPARAGUS SUMMARY FOR NEW YORK MARKET

E. R. Biddle and S. W. Russell, of the New York City office, have published a 15-paged summary on "Asparagus on the New York Market, Season of 1930." Copies can be had directly from Mr. Biddle.

5b. FIRST REPORT ON SANFORD CELERY

J. B. Owens wrote as follows from Sanford, Fla., in a letter of January 28:-

"The Sanford-Oviedo district has had very poor weather for the growing of celery during the past month. Numerous frosts have caused the outer stems to become pithy, and the continued cool weather has retarded the growth of the plants, causing a predominence of small sizes at this time. The past few days have been warm and very suitable to growth, but it seems that this warm weather and renewed growth will not help increase shipments very much for the present, as growing celery will not bleach satisfactorily. The pithiness seems to occur mostly in the small-sized stock and, while the plant will not overcome this defect by growth within itself, most of the affected stems will be lost during the preparations for packing, thereby giving a stalk of fairly-firm quality. Practically all of the stock moved to date has been of only fair to ordinary quality, with none of the shippers attempting to put up a U. S. No. 1 pack. However, I expect this situation to change within the next few days.

"Shipments have been very light during the past week, with the result that the demand has been active for all available stock. The demand has been especially good for the larger sizes, with the small sizes meeting only a fair demand and at a discount in price. The f.o.b. market seems to be holding firmly under the light shipments, and the shippers report that they have had no trouble at all, so far, in disposing of all their daily loadings. Prices have remained steady during the week, with crates of 3 to 6 dozens in the rough selling at $2.25 f.o.b. usual terms. The usual differential of 10¢ on crate-washed and 25¢ on individually-washed stock has not held absolutely true, so far this season. One reason for this is the ordinary quality of the stock, and another is that one of the large firms here is crate-washing most of its output at present and selling it on the same basis as the rough stock."

6b. WEATHER MILD AND MARKETS DULL IN COLORADO

Bryce Morris sent the following report in a letter dated January 31 at Denver:-

"The past week has been very mild, over all parts of Colorado. The average temperature for the past month shows an accumulative total of over 160° above normal.

"Shipments of potatoes have been moderate from the San Luis Valley, with prices slightly easier. Growers were receiving 85¢-90¢ per cwt. late this week for Brown Beautys, and 90¢-95¢ on Red McClures.

"Prices the last few days in northern Colorado have weakened materially, with dealers offering 65¢-70¢ on Standard Grade Rurals on Friday and Saturday of this week.

"Demand for onions has been very slow, with the market dull and generally unchanged. Western Slope farmers received 20¢-25¢ bulk per cwt. for Yellow Danvers. Arkansas Valley farmers received from 35¢ to $1 per cwt., according to size and quality."

7b. A NEW SUMMARY ISSUED

This week a mimeographed summary on "Marketing North Carolina Strawberries, 1930 Season," has been distributed. The author is R. E. Keller.

8b. UNUSUALLY MILD WINTER IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

T. R. Hall wrote as follows in a letter of January 29 from the Seattle office:-

"With the approaching end of January, the Puget Sound country has experienced one of the mildest winters in many years and the situation has been particularly favorable for local gardeners. Even though wholesale prices have not been high nor very profitable, the weather to date has been so mild that harvesting operations have been carried on almost continuously, and many of the green vegetables usually obtained from southern points are coming from local gardens. As a result, the quantity of winter growing vegetables is being depleted through the usual market channels and not by adverse weather conditions.

"Local spinach and various other greens are plentiful. An occasional car from the South is billed this way to take care of any demand that might follow a severe cold snap in the Northwest. But Walla Walla is also shipping an occasional car; so there is almost no chance for the southern product to be handled profitably. Quantities of locally-grown bunched carrots practically exclude the California carrots. Other bunched vegetables, - beets, green onions, parsley, radishes and turnips, - are plentiful.

"The end of a rather disastrous season for local celery growers is at hand. No estimate of the quantity placed in storage during October or December is available, but these supplies are practically exhausted now, opening the way for California celery. Undoubtedly many hundreds of cases were put in storage last fall at 80¢-85¢ each, and holders, after paying 25¢-50¢ storage-charges and taking the shrinkage, were glad to get 85¢ per crate this month. The cabbage market also has been demoralized, 50¢-75¢ per cwt. being reported as the price to the retail trade.

"Following 10 days of fairly good trading early in the month, everything has turned dull and draggy; apples and citrus fruit may be excepted. If present mild weather continues, the early 1931 vegetables will be on the market almost as soon as the old crop is cleaned up. This certainly is an unusual condition and one that has the produce men bewildered."

9b. LATEST NEWS ON MAINE POTATOES

The following report was received from W. D. Hull, at Presque Isle, Maine, under date of February 2:-

"Continued cold weather during the greater part of last week has undoubtedly been of some benefit to the Maine potato market. Early in the week the market began to show signs of unsteadiness. This became more apparent as the week advanced and the weather became warmer. Haulings of potatoes from farm storage increased very considerably on Tuesday and Wednesday. However, Thursday was much colder and haulings were sharply curtailed, which no doubt saved a further reduction in the street price. Monday and Tuesday, the street price was generally $1.85 per barrel, but on Wednesday many buyers cut to $1.75-$1.80. A few dealers reported liberal haulings at the lower price, but in general the quantity of potatoes bought at $1.75 was small, compared with sales which brought more, even at the outlying sidings. Wednesday there was a light fall of snow, with sufficient wind in the late afternoon to cause drifting in the open country, which blocked the roads and made travel very difficult the balance of the week.

(continued over)

"In general, the f.o.b. price has been maintained at $1.30 per 100-pound sack, with an occasional car bringing as high as $1.35. Offers of $1.25 were repeatedly refused by shippers and brokers. This seemed to be the price the city buyers were willing to pay, and it required considerable bargaining to confirm sales at the going price of $1.30. Few f.o.b. sales of bulk stock were made each day at $1.20 per cwt., with many offers of $1.15 refused.

"Total shipments from Maine for the past week were 1,544 cars. By an odd coincidence, total shipments for the previous week also were 1,544 cars. For the corresponding weeks last year about 1,349 and 1,487 cars moved respectively. Shipments of both certified and selected seed increased last week, there being 68 cars of certified seed reported by the Inspectors of the Maine Bureau of Plant Industry, compared with 43 cars the previous week. The increase in seed movement causes the daily shipment figures to seem higher than they really are. For example, in Saturday's total of 309 cars, one could count 60 cars of seed stock."

10b. TROUBLE ARISING FROM UNPAID TELEGRAMS

Field men and city market reporters are cautioned to be careful concerning the individuals or firms to whom they send telegrams collect. One of our field men had been sending daily reports by wire to a party in Florida. Recently, the telegraph company advised the field man that collections could not be made from the party addressed, and the charges on these wires were reversed. The following item, published in the D.L. last summer, should be carefully read by all employees:

Due to the increasing number of refusals on collect telegrams giving market information, sent to members of the trade in various places, it seems advisable to adopt a definite policy governing the handling of such business. Hereafter, no market information should be sent collect to any produce firm or private individual, unless they have established a credit with the telegraph company and the telegraph company will agree to guarantee collection of tolls on all telegrams containing market information sent collect at the request of the applicant. When you receive a request for market information collect, you should immediately get in touch with the local manager of the telegraph company, either by personal visit or by telephone, advising him that you have a request for telegraphic market information to be sent collect to John Doe at Podunk Center, Illinois, and ask him if the telegraph company will guarantee the charges, stating that we will send such telegraphic information only without recourse to the Government, and to confirm his guarantee in writing. In most cases, the firms in question will have established credit-relations with the telegraph companies and they will be in a position to promptly guarantee such payments. In cases where no credit-relations have been established, it will be necessary for the party requesting the telegrams to establish financial responsibility with the telegraph company before the service will be started.

In order that it may not be necessary to continuously reestablish the reliability of firms requesting telegraphic market information collect, a record should be kept of the names of all firms whose liability has been guaranteed by the telegraph companies. Telegrams should be sent without question to such firms until such time as the telegraph company may notify us that their credit has been discontinued.

11b. IMPROVEMENT IN ROCHESTER BULLETINS

R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office, has greatly improved the form and appearance of his daily mineographed market reports, by a re-arrangement of the material. Following the destination information, which is listed in three columns, he has double columns for the f.o.b.'s and markets, making them much easier to read. The condition of the market is also placed conspicuously at the upperright corner of each report, as follows:-

POTATOES: DULL Light wire inquiry. Haulings light account weather and condition of market. Demand slow. Market dull. Carloads f.o.b. shipping --	APPLES: ABOUT STEADY Moderate wire inquiry. Demand moderate. Market about steady. Carloads f.o.b. usual terms - Bushel tubs, U.S. No. 1, 2½ inches up ---

The city market information under each product is arranged in a similar form, and the daily shipments from the most important States are tabulated in columns, so as to show shipments for each of the last five days, with totals to date this season and last season, and final total for last season.

12b. FLORIDA ORANGE FESTIVAL, JANUARY 27-31

The following interesting description came from H. F. Willson, at Winter Haven, in a letter dated January 27:-

"Winter Haven is all decorated in grand style for the opening of the third annual State-wide orange festival, being held here January 27 to 31 inclusive. All municipal buildings and most of the privately-owned business houses are gayly bedecked with flags and trimmings. A company from the North contracted to decorate the streets and, all in all, the town presents a very pleasing appearance.

"The opening day is designated as 'School Day,' and all students and teachers are admitted free. A holiday has been declared for the 16,000 pupils in Polk County and large numbers are expected from adjoining districts. January 28 is 'Governor's Day,' and Governor Carleton will deliver an address in the afternoon. Thursday will be 'Tourist Day' and Friday is to be 'Growers' Day.' Suitable programs have been arranged for the various days. All indications are for a larger attendance than last year when there were over 61,000 paid admissions. The fruit exhibits are of high standard, and the number of exhibits of associated industries shows a considerable increase.

"The arch-way over the main entrance is one of the unique features this year. It represents two, giant, fruit-glasses filled with orange juice, between which are grouped orange blossoms and leaves. The entire design is made-up in colors and, as one party remarked:- 'It makes your mouth water to look at it, and you can hardly wait to get inside to have some of the free orange juice.'"

13b. GREAT INTEREST IN POTATO MARKET REPORTS

W. D. Hull, in charge of the Presque Isle, Maine, field station, circularized his mailing-list the first of January. At the end of the first week, there were slightly over 2,100 replies. By February 1, the list had increased to 2,700 names, with additional requests still coming in.

14b. SOME FLORIDA BERRIES BEING SHIPPED WITH DRY ICE.

R. M. Peterson sent the following information from Plant City in a letter of February 3:-

"The quality of Florida strawberries continued to improve throughout last week, and yesterday's pickings were the nicest I have seen this season. The size is gradually decreasing, but that is to be expected as the early berries are nearly always the largest. Shipments last week were 27 freight, 30 express, and the equivalent of 18 cars of pony refrigerators, which is 50% more than the preceding week. The total movement, however, was slightly heavier than these figures would indicate, because the number of express cars was over twice as many as the preceding week and these express cars are loaded approximately 50% heavier than the freight cars. The shipping-point market showed a slightly easier tone during the week, and on Saturday the price averaged 15 3/4¢ per pint.

"The local buyers, who agreed to buy pints only, found it impossible to live up to this agreement, because of a few buyers who are not in sympathy with the attempt to standardize the local package. As a result, approximately one-fourth of the berries are now being packed in quarts. The two associations, which are selling through the auction, are using the 24-pint crates with the square cups. The auction is again in operation and plans on holding sales the balance of the season.

"A number of small-lot shipments have been made in corrugated paper cartons under dry-ice refrigeration. At present, cartons of two sizes are being used. The smaller holds 16 quarts and is packed with six pounds of dry ice. The larger carton holds 39 quarts and takes 10 pounds of dry ice. Although only a thousand quarts have been shipped under this method, the results seem to have been very satisfactory and some shippers are predicting that the dry-ice cartons will replace the pony refrigerators entirely. The total cost of placing these cartons in the market, including the cost of carton and dry ice, is around 4¢ per quart cheaper than by the use of the pony refrigerator. This does not take into consideration the cost of the pony-refrigerator box, which involves a considerable investment. One shipper states that this low price enabled him to deliver berries in the terminal markets at a price that was approximately only ½¢ per quart more than for those shipped in car-lots. If this is true, the dry-ice carton should become popular.

"One car-lot of berries moved from here Thursday night by freight in a special dry-ice car. I understand that this car arrived in New York on Monday morning but that the berries were not in good condition. The shipper states that the car had no refrigeration while it was being loaded and that the temperature of the car was 62° when the doors were closed. The dry ice was not placed in the car until 30 minutes later, which means that the berries were undoubtedly very warm before the ice had any effect, and it was natural to suppose that most of the damage was done before the car moved.

"The Manatee-Sarasota celery has shown no improvement and is still mostly of fair quality. Practically all of it shows some pithiness and most of the stock is not showing good length. The shipments last week were approximately 85 cars, with the expected movement this week to be about the same or slightly less. The market has held steady, with generally good demand."

15b. LOW PRICES FOR FLORIDA CITRUS FRUIT

H. F. Willson sent the following report in a letter of February 2 from Winter Haven:-

"Shipments of Florida citrus have been heavy during the past two weeks. About 840 cars of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and mixed citrus passed the Florida gateways during Saturday and Sunday. For the corresponding days a week ago the total was 945 cars. Shipments of all Florida citrus this season to February 2 total 35,175 cars, compared to 23,679 a year ago and 29,735 cars for the large crop in 1928-29.

"Prices are extremely low, although oranges showed some advance during the latter part of the month. For the week ending January 31, the combined average of 402 cars of Florida grapefruit sold on nine leading auctions, as compiled by the Clearing House, was $2.45. Of this number, 64 cars of Indian River section fruit sold at $2.95, while 338 cars from other sections averaged only $2.35. On the same markets, 578 cars of Florida oranges sold for $2.95 average. About 65 cars of Indian River fruit sold at $3.35, while the remaining 513 cars averaged $2.90."

16b. TOMATOES, BEANS AND PEPPERS IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

V. H. Nicholson wrote as follows in a letter of January 31 from Miami, Fla.:-

"While the weather in southern Florida this week has been much more favorable, there has been little trading in tomatoes on account of poor quality of the stock. Shippers report that the inquiry for good tomatoes is fair, but that most wires specify that the stock arrive in good condition. As a result, there have been practically no sales on an f.o.b. basis, and practically all of the light shipments have been consigned.

"If the weather continues favorable next week, shipments should increase slightly and the market should be fairly good for good-quality stock. Shippers are expecting quality to improve materially next week. A recent estimate of the tomato acreage by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates placed the south Florida plantings at 11,100 acres, or about the same as last spring. However, if favorable weather prevails, carlot shipments may exceed those of last spring. Peak movement will probably come the last of March.

"Carlot shipments of beans continue light. While a few cars were shipped from the Lake Okeechobee section this week, most shipments have come from the East Coast section around Pompano. The market declined to $5-$6 about the middle of the week, but apparently is somewhat stronger today. According to shippers around Pompano, quality has been improving this week. Quality of the three cars shipped from around the Lake was reported to be very ordinary, and the cars were consigned.

"Shipments of peppers from the acreage around Pompano have been fairly heavy. Total shipments from the State have averaged 10 to 12 cars daily. As a result of the heavier shipments, prices in the terminal markets have declined and the price to growers around Pompano has also declined from around $2 for best Fancy stock at the first of the week to $1.75 yesterday, with the market rather draggy at that price."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	May 1
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 15
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House	894	C. D. Schoolcraft	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Mar. 28
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Apr. 15
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	Apr. 15
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Mar. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 1
			Tomatoes	Jan. 16	May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Strb.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach	Jan. 5	Feb. 15
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 16	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 16	May 15
			Onions	Mar. 23	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
BRAWLEY, CALIF.,** Planters' Hotel Bldg.	933	A. E. Prugh L. T. Kirby	Lettuce	Jan. 5	Mar. 21
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

B. E. Surry in Chicago. W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. NOTICE REGARDING TOMATO INSPECTIONS

At this season of the year, inspections of tomatoes may involve the question of freezing and chilling. All inspectors should, therefore, refer to Memorandum No. 69, by G. B. Ramsey, entitled; "Freezing and Chilling Injury of Tomatoes," which gives detailed information on the subject. Any inspector who does not have a copy of the memorandum should advise the Washington office at once and same will be mailed to him.

2c. SEND OLD BILLS TO WASHINGTON FOR COLLECTION

Attention is directed to paragraph 144, Part I, Inspection Handbook, which specifically states that no bills should be held over two months, except those owed by a railroad. In some cases old bills have been held in the branch offices for several months and, when effort was made to collect them, it was learned that the firm had gone out of business. The procedure outlined in paragraphs 143, 144 and 145, Part I, Inspection Handbook should be closely followed. Each inspector in charge of a market must make it a part of his business to collect all outstanding fee-bills and send them to Washington after they are two months old.

3c. ROOT GROWTH OF ONIONS

The U. S. Standards for Northern-Grown Onions, as revised December 20, 1928, specify that U. S. No. 1 shall be "free from damage caused by roots, etc." This refers to roots which were present when the onions were harvested and does not include new root-growth which occurs in transit or storage. Old root-growth shall be considered as a grade defect and new root-growth as a factor of condition, as outlined in the onion circular of the Inspection Handbook. Old roots are usually dry, tough and fibrous and somewhat longer than new root-growth which appears fresh, white and generally short. New root-growth usually dries out and disappears after the onions are exposed to a free circulation of fresh air. See paragraph 51, Northern-Grown Onions, Inspection Handbook.

4c. COMPARISON OF CALIFORNIA INSPECTIONS BY MONTHS FOR PAST THREE YEARS

The following report on shipping-point inspections appeared in the California "Inspectors' Notes" for January 30:-

	1928	1929	1930
January	1317	1324	1235
February	1089	1340	2177
March	1091	947	1608
April	1970	1145	2272
May	3796	2857	3102
June	1537	2267	2581
July	3436	1771	3368
August	5067	3736	4220
September	16728	13556	9908
October	15567	15205	16833
November	3383	3186	3844
December	1032	1072	2366
TOTAL	56043	48406	53514

5c. CERTIFICATION OF CAULIFLOWER ACCORDING TO NEW FORM OF GRADE STATEMENT

The question of form of certification of cauliflower in receiving markets has recently been brought up, and in handling this phase of inspection work three different situations will be encountered:-

1. Cars which are certified as up to grade at shipping-point and will be below grade at destination only because of condition factors. Cases of this kind have already been covered in Memorandum No. 71.

2. Receiving-point inspectors will also have cars to certify, which were below grade at shipping-point but were certified as showing a certain percentage of U. S. No. 1 quality and which may show a considerably higher percentage of defects in the market. In some instances there will be a request to show the percentage of U. S. No. 1 quality on such cars and in other cases there will not be such a request. When there is no request made for the percentage of No. 1 quality in the market inspection, it will be better not to bring up a possible point of controversy by showing that a shipment which contained 85% of No. 1 quality at point of origin contains only 60% on arrival at destination. Such cars should be simply reported as now failing to grade U. S. No. 1, without making any reference to the percentage of No. 1 quality nor the fact that it meets the quality requirements of U. S. No. 1 in other respects. When there is a request for the percentage of U. S. No. 1 quality, it should be handled as follows: "Stock fails to grade U. S. 1, but now shows approximately 80% of U. S. 1 quality."

3. There is another situation in which no shipping-point inspection has been made on a lot that arrives in the market failing to grade only on account of condition factors. This case should be handled in the same way as if the car had been previously inspected and reported as up to grade. That is, - state that it now fails to grade U. S. No. 1 only on account of condition factors but meets the quality requirements of this grade.

6c. LETTUCE INSPECTIONS HEAVY IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

California "Inspectors' Notes" for January 23 contained this news item:-

Over 65% of the lettuce shipments in the Imperial Valley have been certified so far this month. A personnel of 32 inspectors is working in the Valley at present, and Phil Stay reports that several additional men will probably be needed next week.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman gave a short radio talk through Station WRC on Thursday at noon on the 1931 Outlook for Potatoes. R. R. Pailthorp discussed the outlook for fruits, and B. C. Boree talked on the vegetable outlook.

An epidemic of "grippe" prevails in Washington at present, and one of the victims is W. E. Lewis, who has been off duty all of this week.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Robert Bier, of the Washington inspection staff, last Tuesday took a group of students from the University of Maryland through two of the wholesale produce markets in this city, explaining to them the usual methods of marketing. There were about 18 students and two teachers in the group.

J. W. Park, of Mr. Pailthorp's project, has been detailed to Mr. Warburton's office in the main building of the Department, to assist for the next two months on the seed-loan work. It will be remembered that Mr. Park had considerable experience along this line in past years, having handled seed-loan work in the North Central States and the Pacific Southwest.

Herbert Graff, of the Washington inspection office, went to Danville, Va., on Wednesday to take care of an inspection in that market. Robert Bier was at Charlottesville, Va., one day last week for a similar purpose.

Latest word from J. G. Cross indicates that he has recently been interviewing railroad officials in the Imperial Valley of California. At present, he is in Los Angeles.

Because of a rush of work in Kansas City, L. W. Brewer has been sent from the Chicago office of the Inspection Service, to assist F. M. Lyle for a few days.

On January 26 at Berkeley, Calif., F. G. Robb addressed a class of advance students in agricultural economics at the request of Dr. Erdman, formerly of this Bureau, on the regulatory work of the Fruit and Vegetable Division. That afternoon was spent in Sacramento. Mr. Robb held a conference of Salt Lake City dealers on January 28, meeting a similar group of growers and shippers at Grand Junction on the 29th. He spent Monday, February 2, in the Chicago office, returning to Washington Tuesday, the 3rd.

L. C. Carey expects to leave Washington on February 12 and travel to Cleveland and Detroit, for the purpose of making investigations under the Standard Container Acts. He will return about February 17.

T. C. J. Baker also plans to leave on February 12 and travel to Cleveland, Ohio; New Albany, Ind.; Paducah, Ky.; Metropolis, Ill.; Humboldt, Tenn.; Hazelhurst, Miss.; Roseland and New Orleans, La.; Bay Minette and Birmingham, Ala.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Brunswick and Savannah, Ga., for the purpose of making investigations under the Standard Container Acts. He will not return until about March 18.

C. R. Newton left on February 5 for Pittsburgh, to make investigations under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. He expects to return to the Washington office about February 15.

R. H. Shoemaker is expected to return from Richmond at the end of this week, and will then proceed to Pittsburgh, where he will join C. R. Newton in making investigations under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 7 February 13, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ALL FIELD MEN - ATTENTION, PLEASE:

This is a gentle reminder of an old rule, which has not been enforced as rigidly as its merit deserves. This rule is that every member of the field force is to be held accountable for observing instructions in the Division Letter, exactly as though they had been transmitted to him individually in a letter over the signature of the Project Leader, the Division Leader, or the Chief of the Bureau. As far as possible, these instructions will appear in the first, or general, section of the D.L., or under the section which is devoted to the particular project affected. Therefore, market-news men will find these instructions or a page-reference to them either in the first section or the market-news section of the D.L. Inspectors will find them in the first section or the inspection section.

It is sometimes necessary to insert an important item of instructions or information of general interest on any page where space can be made for it, while the stencils are being cut. In such cases, a line is usually inserted at the bottom of some page in the first section, to note the location of the item.

The D.L. has always been an important communication. It is not to be opened and idly thrown aside for a more convenient season and perhaps never read. We are permitted to publish it, only on the theory that it carries important communications to the field which otherwise would require the mimeographing and separate-mailing of a great many circular letters, probably requiring in the aggregate many more stencils and envelopes than are required for the D.L.

Great Importance of P.A.C. Act

The administration of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act is one of the most far-reaching and important responsibilities ever placed upon the Bureau, and no other activity of this Division has attracted such general and intense interest from the start. Almost everyone in the Division will have more or less contact with this work. Almost every field man has been and will be questioned about it by interested parties. The D.L. has contained only occasional paragraphs concerning this Act thus far, but is likely to contain many more in the future and every member of the field force, no matter what his duties, is expected to keep posted on what appears in the D.L. concerning this activity.

New Duties

At this moment we consider every member of the field force a scout, whose duty it is to be on the lookout for persons who should be licensed but who are not. Instructions will probably reach you within a week (possibly with this Division Letter) as to your procedure in this matter. Field men who render the Division no service in this matter will be expected to show that they have had no opportunity to do so. Failure to read the literature or to understand what it means will be considered a flagrant item of inefficiency, well-calculated to result in retarding promotion. If you do not understand the instructions received or the items published concerning

this activity, write us promptly and fully, explaining your difficulty or uncertainty. Such letters may help us in framing questions to be submitted to the Solicitor.

Solicitor's Opinions

A digest of all the opinions of the Solicitor rendered to date in connection with this Act is being made for the information and guidance of the entire force and to enable the field men connected with other projects to discuss the P.A.C. Act more intelligently. We have moved slowly in attempting to explain to the field force all that has been going on in connection with P.A.C. work, partly because there was so little of positive decision or conclusion to be stated. But it is our purpose to give you, from this time forward, all of the information that is practicable, usually through D.L. items and perhaps occasionally in separate mimeographed form.

Transfers of Personnal

The needs of the P.A.C. work may require the permanent or temporary transfer of either market-news men or inspectors, on short notice. These changes will sometimes carry with them opportunities for promotion. If, when considering a man in this connection, we find that he knows far less about the P.A.C. Act and its administration than he might have known, had he studied carefully the material which we have issued through the D.L. and otherwise, we shall be inclined to drop him from further consideration because of his lack of enterprise and appreciation of the value of new knowledge. Please note that I have used the word "studied" and not merely "read." When we begin to publish copies of the Secretary's findings and orders under this Act, you are likely to be met with a renewed volley of questions from the trade. If you know all that has gone before, the Secretary's findings will mean more to you, and you can explain them more helpfully to others.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. B.A.E. GOES OVER THE TOP IN RELIEF-CONTRIBUTIONS

As noted in "The B.A.E. News" this week, our Bureau gave or pledged $6,082 in the recent Red Cross--Community Chest drive, thereby exceeding its quota by $1,373.50. The B.A.E. contribution exceeded that of any other bureau or branch of the Dept. of Agriculture in Washington. The Department exceeded its quota by more than $10,000.

Our own Fruit and Vegetable Division gave practically $764, the largest amount contributed by any Division of the Bureau, although Crop and Livestock Estimates ran us a close second.

3a. CHICAGO STAFF RESPONDS TO APPEAL FOR DROUGHT-RELIEF

"In connection with the recent memorandum from the Secretary of Agriculture regarding the drought situation in the Southwest, the Chicago members of the Fruit and Vegetable Division, including the Market News and Inspection Services, held a meeting to discuss drought relief donations, and as a result appointed Miss Frances Myers to handle all funds collected. The members made donations totaling $49, which were turned over to the Chicago Red Cross Drought Relief Committee; and, in addition, certain amounts were pledged for the same purpose next month."- (by E. E. Conklin, 2/7/31)

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. LOW PRICES FOR BULK POTATOES IN SOUTHERN IDAHO

L. C. Tate wrote as follows from Idaho Falls in a letter of February 5:-

"Potato values at Idaho shipping points have advanced a shade today, due largely to the inability of warehousemen to trade with farmers at prices comparative to recent carlot quotations. An acute depression in the demand for Russets, together with lower prices at Chicago and Los Angeles, tended to force many local traders out of the market. For several days early this week, many loaders refused to put a price on bulk stocks, letting the farmers store their potatoes in the warehouses on agreement that a price would be set, upon sale of the loaded merchandise.

"Bulk prices sagged to 50¢-60¢ on No. 1's early this week, and only scattering farmers who needed ready money were in the market. Warehouse-holdings became very limited and shipments dropped to 100 or 125 cars daily, which is a rather light movement this season. Most of the farmers around Idaho Falls demand something like 75¢ bulk for their Russets, but others, who live at outside points where there is less competition and no demand for stocks to go into small bags, appear to haul heavily at 60¢-65¢ bulk. No. 2 prices paid to farmers this week have held generally around 20¢, with a few lots lower. At these figures, many of the dealers induced the farmers to do their own sorting, allowing them within 12¢-15¢ of the loaded-car market for such stocks. Sales of small bags have been light this week.

"The weather has been mild during the last 10 days, so that there has been no interference with hauling, except from the price-angle. Carlot loadings in the lower valley have been restricted to a considerable extent by the low prices."

2b. WISCONSIN POTATO PRICES REACH LOWEST POINT OF SEASON

C. D. Schoolcraft furnished the following report from Waupaca, Wis., on February 6:-

"Potato prices for this section reached a new seasonal low yesterday, when sales were reported at $1.05 per cwt. The majority of sales of U. S. No. 1 stock are being made around $1.10, with a slight premium on good-quality cars. Movement of table stock has been slow. Growers' prices have shown a general range of 75¢-80¢ per cwt. in the central section, with a few points where quality is better than average paying as high as 90¢. Haulings have generally been light.

"During the past week or 10 days, the demand for seed stock has picked up and the market has strengthened appreciably. A few weeks ago, demand for seed was almost lacking and some of the shippers feared they would either have to make drastic price-concessions or have a surplus of seed which would have to be disposed of as table stock, but it is now apparent that all available seed Triumphs will clean-up at fair prices. Prices have shown a rather wide range, with certified Triumphs bringing $1.55-$1.80 per cwt. and common seed $1.35-$1.55. At present, the bulk of the certified stock is bringing $1.65-$1.75. Most of this stock is going to Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas."

3b. FLORIDA CELERY IN FIRM POSITION

Writing from Sanford on February 4, J. B. Owens sent the following important information on Florida celery:-

"Shipments of celery from the Sanford-Oviedo section of Florida continue rather light, with little possibility that there will be any sharp increase in the near future. The movement from this section to date is 588 cars, compared with 824 for the same period last year. The weather continues a little too cool for the celery to bleach properly and most of the present shipments are of only fair quality. Approximately 25% of the celery is now going out under the various first-grade labels, with the remainder in plain crates or under second-grade labels.

"So far this season it has been impossible to establish a definite differential between the rough, the crate-washed and the individually-washed stock. This is caused more or less by the wide range in quality and the various policies of the shippers. Perhaps, when the quality improves so that there will be a predominance of first-grade stock, the shippers will establish a standard differential between the various classes.

"The f.o.b. market has been firm during the past week, with very little change in prices. The slight advance in prices on certain days was due to the improved quality in a few cars, rather than to a general advance in the market. The demand has been very active, with many of the shippers having sold-out or having more orders than they could fill. The prevailing attitude is not to try to boost the market any higher, due to the poor quality of the stock and the expected daily increase in shipments. They believe that they can hold the present level longer than they could if they attempted to advance prices at this time. The demand for 10 dozen's has not been nearly so good as the demand for other stock, a discount of as much as 75¢ being made on this size. It is a practice here to designate anything packed 10 dozen and smaller as 10 dozen's. They do not mark the crate as 10's, but put a single (x) or double (xx) on the package. These packages often contain as high as 16 dozen stalks, and terminal-market reporters should watch out for these, as they are discounted as much as 25¢ to 50¢ below the regular 10 dozen's.

"As a suggestion, I wish to mention that there is no precooled celery going out of this district at present; that is, according to the agreed definition of precooled celery, which I believe requires the removal of the vegetable-heat before loading. The customary practices of dipping the celery in cold water are still in vogue, but none of them reduces the temperature as low as 35° to 40°. Practically all washed celery is labelled as precooled, but most of the shippers admit that this is not precooled in the true sense of the word, and they do not attempt to get a premium in price for this feature. Instead, this cold-water-bath is a more or less established feature that goes with washed celery. There is one plant which actually precools the celery, but it is not in operation yet and, when in operation, will possibly handle not more than 10% of the tonnage.

Another letter, dated February 9 at Sanford, gave the following additional report regarding Sanford celery:-

"Shipments of celery were still light during the past week, and there is little possibility for a decided increase during this week, the estimated shipments being around 300 cars. The cool nights continue to make the bleaching-process very slow, and much of the stock is going out with only an ordinary bleach, after having been papered for over 10 days.

"The general quality of the stock now being shipped is only fair, the chief defects being pithiness in the outer stems, poor bleach, and short stalks. A rough estimate would put possibly 20% of the recent shipments as grading U. S. No. 1 quality.

"The market conditions are practically the same as last week, with shippers continuing to take orders in advance of shipments and generally reporting a clean slate at the end of the day. Some of the smaller shippers have been agitating an advance in price, but the larger ones are clinging to their policy of last week, with a view to maintaining a continuously firm market rather than advance prices for a few days and slow up consumption in the face of increased shipments.

"There has been considerable cash-buying during the week just passed, with but very little discount being made for cash purchases. About the only advantage being gained in cash-buying is the opportunity to select the choice cars of the day's shipments. The f.o.b. price on rough stock has been steady at $2.25 per crate of three to six dozen's, $2 on eight dozen's, and the 10-dozen's selling rather slowly at $1.50."

4b. BULK GRAPEFRUIT SOLD IN CABBAGE CRATES IN KANSAS CITY

R. E. Corbin, of the Kansas City office, submitted the following report on February 4:-

"During the last two weeks, we have been having a run of bulk grapefruit from Florida on the Kansas City market. The firm which pioneered this grapefruit movement has averaged about a car a day of unloads, since it began receiving these shipments. It is remarkable how quickly the trade as a whole took to the bulk fruit. The stock has been of good quality and has moved at prices ranging $2.50-$3.50 per hundred fruits.

"When the cars come in, a crew of men is set to work counting the fruits which are packed in cabbage crates, from 200 to 225 to the crate, depending on the size of the fruits. The stock up to the present has been of the Duncan variety. This bulk-grapefruit venture has been especially interesting because of the fact that Florida fruit has been steadily losing ground in favor of Texas grapefruit on the Kansas City market."

5b. A LONG-DISTANCE HAUL TO NEW ORLEANS MARKET

J. W. Coleman sent the following information in a letter of January 29 from the New Orleans office:-

"Most of the truck receipts for New Orleans come from within a 70-mile radius. Last week H. Manade of Somerset, Texas, broke all previous records for long-distance trucking to this market. He brought a load of cauliflower to New Orleans in 24 hours' driving-time. The load totaled 300 dozen heads, and the distance covered was 668 miles. Mr. Manade expects to do a regular business of trucking produce from Texas to New Orleans. On the return-trip this week, he expects to take back a load of tangerines. He claims he can haul produce from Texas to New Orleans for less than the cost of shipping by express."

ONION HOLDINGS in the 17 late States on January 1 were 6,076,000 bushels, compared with 5,341,000 a year ago, an increase of nearly 14%. About two-thirds were still in the hands of growers. Possibly 10,000 cars will move after the first of January until the close of the season.

6b. COLORADO CROP CONDITIONS REPORTED BY DENVER OFFICE

On February 7, Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, sent the following report of local crop conditions:-

"Very mild weather has continued throughout Colorado shipping sections the past week, with the exception of light snow and rain in the Grand Junction- Montrose area on Thursday and Friday. The Denver Weather Bureau reports a cumulative total of 248° above normal since January 1 and 71° since February 1. No moisture has fallen on the Eastern Slope for over a month.

"Potato shipments from the San Luis Valley have been only moderate recently. Estimates on the remaining potatoes in the Valley vary considerably, ranging from 1,600 to 2,500 cars. It is quite probable that 2,000 to 2,200 cars remain to be shipped, however, and it is possible that an even greater quantity may be moved. Prices have weakened slightly. Late this week there was a slightly stronger undertone to the market but little change in prices. The demand for Red McClures has been particularly slow, while the demand for Brown Beautys has been quiet.

"Northern Colorado potato shipments have continued at a fairly liberal rate. Reports have been received that farmers are feeding considerable quantities of potatoes in the Greeley section at present, which may reduce somewhat the potential number of cars remaining to be shipped. Estimates vary from 2,500 to approximately 3,500 cars remaining in this district. The low prices probably will reduce the movement considerably under that estimated early last fall.

"On the Western Slope, the Carbondale movement has been very light. With Colorado shipments now at approximately 12,500 cars, dealers generally estimate about 7,000 cars remaining to be shipped from the State.

"Onion shipments have been moderate from the Arkansas Valley. Demand has been very slow, in line with the onion markets generally throughout the United States, and the market has been generally dull but steady. Practically all large Valencias moving in sacks are in the 50-pound open-mesh containers, while a portion of them are moving in the Spanish-style crates. On account of the keen competition of the small Valencias, measuring two inches and up, with other yellow onions in the Middle West, sales on this size stock have been very slow. Prices to growers have remained practically stationary at 35¢-40¢ on two-inch minimum stock, 45¢-50¢ on field-run, and 90¢-$1 per cwt. on three-inch minimum No. 1 stock.

"In the Montrose area, onion shipments have continued light, with the present movement considerably under one-half the 1930 shipments at this time. The Montrose-Olathe district shipped approximately 250 cars after this time last season, which would indicate that under similar conditions the 1930 crop movement will range between 700 and 800 cars. Growers are receiving 20¢-25¢ per cwt. of bulk No. 1 Yellow Danvers.

"Light receipts of Mexican peas sold on the Denver market this week at $7.75 per 40-pound crate."

6½b. JANUARY HOLDINGS OF CABBAGE

Stocks of cabbage on hand January 1 in seven late-shipping States were estimated at 62,244 tons, or 12% more than holdings of a year ago, but 6% less than stocks on January 1, 1929. About two-thirds were still in the hands of growers. Holdings were equivalent to 4,980 cars, mostly in New York and Wisconsin. Total shipments from January 1 until the end of the season are likely to be around 3,700 cars, of which some 2,100 cars moved during the month of January.

7b. MICHIGAN F.O.B. SALES OF ONIONS AT ONE-HALF CENT PER POUND

The following report was sent by R. E. Keller from Grand Rapids on February 7:-

"Michigan onion forwardings for the past week averaged approximately 25 cars daily. These shipments seem fairly heavy but are necessary if Michigan is to move most of her crop. Shipments are measuring up the huge crop-estimate, as total forwardings to date are approximately 800 cars above those in any previous season. Shipments to date total 3,791 cars, as against 2,192 cars moved at the same time last year. The onion market is very weak. Prices have declined to a point where stock is bringing very little more than loading and selling costs. The f.o.b. price for the past week on U.S. No. 1 Yellows in 100-pound sacks ranged between 50¢ and 65¢, and for 50-pound sacks between 27½¢ and 35¢.

"The potato farmers are doggedly holding on to the little stock they possess, waiting for higher prices. The f.o.b. price on Michigan potatoes has not declined as much during the past week as in other mid-western sections, principally because very little stock has been offered on the declining market."

8b. MORE-FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

V. H. Nicholson wrote as follows from Miami on February 7:-

"While the weather has not been quite so favorable as last week, it has been much better than during the first three weeks of January and the quality of most south Florida vegetables has improved. There was a moderate rainfall on Tuesday, followed by cooler weather Wednesday and Thursday. At the time several shippers thought the rain and the cool weather set the crop back quite a bit, but it now appears that there was no need for their apprehensions.

"While the quality of the tomato shipments has improved quite materially, very few cars of really good tomatoes have been moved and total carlot shipments have been lighter than expected at this time last week. A few sales of Fancy-count in six-basket carriers have been made at prices ranging $2-$2.75, according to the quality. Shippers state that it is not a question of demand but more a question of having good stock to offer. The demand has been fairly good all week, and there are indications of a fairly active market beginning about the middle of next week, providing favorable weather conditions continue.

"Carlot shipments of beans have increased only slightly. The high prices the first of the week were largely speculative, and there was a marked drop in prices Thursday. The heavier shipments were partially the cause of this drop. Yesterday, most Bountifuls were bringing $5-$5.50 at Pompano and Black Valentines were selling $1 lower. If favorable weather prevails during the next few days, shipments should increase only slightly until around February 20. Movement after that date is now expected to be considerably heavier.

"With the advent of more-favorable weather, growers in the Lake Okeechobee section have started planting the spring bean acreage. While there is no estimate on the acreage planted or intended to be planted, it is thought that it will probably equal that of last spring and possibly exceed that figure. It was estimated that the spring crop in Florida last season amount-

(continued over)

ed to a little over 20,000 acres, but this included the acreage in the central and northern parts of the State.

"Shipments of peppers have fallen-off considerably. The dull market has been primarily responsible for this decrease, as growers around Pompano have been ready to ship if they could find buyers. While the market was nominally around $1.75 on Monday, there were very few sales at that price and growers stopped picking rather than sell for $1.50. However, the market has improved slightly during the last few days and most Fancy peppers sold $1.75-$1.85 at Pompano on Thursday and Friday."

9b. INTERESTING NEWS ON FLORIDA STRAWBERRIES

R. M. Peterson wrote as follows in a letter of February 10 from Plant City, Fla.:-

"The strawberry movement in Plant City area increased somewhat last week, with 32 freight and 34 express cars and the equivalent of 17 cars of pony refrigerators. Yesterday's movement of 26 cars, including reefers, was the heaviest this season. The loadings will undoubtedly be lighter for a few days, but heavier shipments are expected the last of this week or the first of next, and with reasonably warm weather the movement during the remainder of this month should he heavier. Peak movement is expected around March 1, with shipments continuing well into April unless the Louisiana competition becomes too heavy.

"The strawberry acreage in central Florida is considerably heavier than that of last season, and at present the plants are showing a good set of berries. Many have the impression that the total production will be much lighter than that of last season, because the shipments to date are 45% lighter. This is not a fair comparison, however, as the movement last season was unusually early. This season is more comparable with that of 1929, when the carlot shipments did not start until the first of January but became heavy in February and by March 1 showed a total movement equal to that of the same date in 1930. Although the yield seems to be somewhat lighter than that of last season, increased acreage will offset this and the total movement is expected to equal that of last year. If the Louisiana crop makes it unprofitable to ship from Florida in April, the picking will undoubtedly continue, as there are several companies here who are now buying culls for cold-packing and who expect to get a large volume of berries toward the end of the season.

"The quality of the berries has shown continued improvement and was very good yesterday. The shipping-point market registered some decline during the middle of the week, but, contrary to most predictions, recovered again and showed an average of 14 3/4¢ per pint for the week. Monday of the present week continued firm, in spite of the fact that haulings increased and that the northern markets showed a generally easier tone. Lower prices are predicted for this week, but the local competition is good and most price-predictions have failed so far.

"Celery movement from the Manatee-Sarasota section was somewhat lighter last week and will probably continue light for some time. The quality is showing some improvement, with less pithiness and better length stalks. The demand has been good and the f.o.b. market generally firm, with practically no change in price from that of the week previous."

10b. HEAVY SNOWFALL AND BELOW-ZERO WEATHER IN WESTERN NEW YORK

R. L. Sutton reported as follows in a letter of February 10 from the Rochester office:-

"Heavy snowfall and the season's lowest temperature have featured the seven-day period since our last report. At some points, 50 to 75 miles south of Rochester, temperatures as low as 15° below zero were reported.

"The market situation for Danish cabbage has held unsatisfactory. Condition of the stock remaining in storage is quite variable. Some loaders report a heavy shrinkage and, due to a combination of factors, smaller sizes are becoming more prevalent. The market is dull. The volume of bulk shipments is lighter. Dealers have been buying from the growers at $7-$8 bulk per ton, delivered at the car. Due to the heavy shrinkage, there is considerable speculation at this time as to the quantity left in storage. The shipments since January 1 have not yet reached the 2,000 mark, and it is generally thought now that the movement will not reach expectations. There are probably less than 1,000 cars yet to roll.

"No material changes have developed in the apple market. The shipments for export are still holding a dominant place, but the outlet for domestic purposes is restricted mostly to the cheaper classes of fruit. The 'late-keepers' are not holding-up very well in storage. Dealers are reporting some waste in Baldwins. The Greenings usually by this time are showing deterioration, and this season is by no means an exception; in fact, the variation in condition is more pronounced than normally.

"The trading in potatoes has been characterized by slowness, with the market mostly dull. Wire-inquiry was light and dealers were reporting difficulty in completing sales. The growers are receiving 65¢-70¢ bulk per bushel for their tubers, the former price predominating yesterday. There appears to be no quick recovery in sight for the potato market.

"Onions continue to occupy a weak position. Sales of desirable stock averaging 70%-75% two-inches and larger have gone as low as 60¢ for 100-pound sacks, and the top price is generally 70¢. It is quite certain that the onions are here in large enough quantities to considerably exceed last season's movement. However, it is problematical as to the quantity of stock that may never be shipped.

"Carrots are showing no improvement at shipping-point. Yesterday, an order was confirmed for a block of cars in bulk at $7 per ton, and in addition the shipper was to sack these carrots in bags furnished by the buyer. This figures 35¢ per cwt., not allowing for the extra expense involved in sacking. A few sales in 100-pound sacks have been reported recently at 55¢, and bushel baskets of washed carrots have gone at the same figure."

11b. CODE CHANGE ON "F" PAGE - (Effective February 18)

On the "F" page of the code, change "FAJ" to read "Potomac Yard passings during 24 hrs. ending 8 a.m. today:" Also "FAK" to read "Potomac Yard passings during 24 hrs. ending 8 a.m. Sunday:"

The change in time from 9 a.m. to 8 a.m. was made by telegraphic instructions during the season of 1929, but has been overlooked in issuing new copies of the code.

12b. ACTIVE DEMAND FOR SEED POTATOES IN MAINE

On February 9, W. D. Hull wrote as follows from Presque Isle, Maine:-

"Cold weather during the early part of last week again steadied the Maine potato situation. Heavy shipments late the preceding week and continued light demand put both the city dealers and local dealers in a pessimistic frame of mind; but light haulings by the growers on account of the extreme temperatures, accompanied by lighter shipments, helped to avert a further weakening of the market on table stock.

"The street price was generally $1.75-$1.80 per barrel, with an occasional load selling for $1.85. One concern that is marketing some potatoes in 15-pound sacks paid $1.85 in Caribou, in order to get the finest stock. On Wednesday, the weather being warmer, the quantity of stock hauled by the growers increased and dealers, with warehouses at country-sidings were there were no other buyers, reported fairly liberal receipts at $1.75 per barrel. Thursday being much colder, there were very few haulings until late afternoon, which helped create a better feeling to the local market. Offerings by the growers were light the balance of the week, and this helped keep the price from going any lower. Shipments last week were well over 1,500 cars, but not quite so heavy as during the last two weeks in January.

"Demand for seed potatoes showed a very decided upturn last week. While there was no material increase in prices, wire-inquiry was brisk and all dealers reported a good demand for certified and selected Cobblers. It could easily be said that the demand for seed the past week helped bolster the table stock market, for many dealers confined their operations to loading and shipping seed and reduced the competition among the table-stock operators. North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia were the heaviest receivers of seed. Much of the certified seed is being shipped on sales-contracts made last fall, but sales of selected Cobblers are being confirmed for prompt shipment. At the present time, Cobblers occupy the center of the stage; however, a few sales of certified Green Mountains were made the past week for March delivery. F.o.b. prices on selected Cobblers in 10-peck bags are $1.70-$1.80, with 11-pecks bringing $1.90-$2. Certified Cobblers are $2.50-$2.60 and $2.75-$2.85 respectively for 10 and 11-peck sacks. A few sales of Green Mountains for March delivery brought $2.60-$2.65 for 11-peck sacks."

13b. ADVERTISING CALIFORNIA CITRUS FRUITS

"Unlike some of those engaged in other farming activities, who seem to be under the impression that all they can do is to throw up their hands and call for help, the citrus growers of this State, at least that 77% belonging to the California Fruit Growers Exchange, have taken time by the forelock, so to speak, and have appropriated an additional half-million dollars to be used in advertising the quantity, quality and cheapness of California oranges among the consuming trade. With the largest orange crop ever produced in this State and a correspondingly large crop in Florida, the citrus industry faces an overproduction problem. But, being organized as it is, it is able to do those things that will bring about the widest possible distribution of its product, putting oranges in the hands of every potential consumer of that fruit and thus, it is hoped, prevent the disastrously low prices that usually prevail in seasons of overproduction."

14b. ARRANGEMENT OF SHIPMENT FIGURES

Several of the market stations are arranging the carlot shipment figures on the daily reports so as to show totals first for each commodity, followed by the detailed State figures. This seems to be an improvement, which may well be adopted by other offices. The total is usually of most importance and greatest interest, but, when printed at the end of the list of States, it often can not be readily located because of additional figures of totals to date, imports, and unreported shipments. Following is an illustration of a more desirable arrangement:-

ONIONS: Total - 115
Ariz. 1, C. Calif. 7, Colo. 14, Ida. 3, Ill. 2, Ind. 32, Ia. 1, Mich. 21, N.Y. 8, Ohio 30, Ore. 3, Wash. 3. Imported: Spain 10. Unreported Jan. 28; Ind. 1, Minn. 5.
POTATOES: Total - 789
N. Calif. 12, Colo. 86, etc.

15b. CLEVELAND MARKET REPORTS AND INSPECTION SERVICE PROVING OF VALUE

A. B. Farlinger, of the Cleveland office, sent the following report in a letter of February 6:-

"It may be of interest to learn about the importance of the work that the local office of the Fruit and Vegetable Division is doing, as recognized by members of the local trade, railroads and shippers: The Claim Departments of all the railroads entering Cleveland are settling all their local claims on fruits and vegetables on the basis of the market quotations, as shown by our daily reports. This procedure is meeting with the entire satisfaction of the local trade. According to several of the railroad claim representatives, since they have commenced settling their claims on the basis of quotations as shown by our reports, the usual discussions, controversies and dissatisfaction have been reduced to a minimum. Those railroads, having all cars Government-inspected upon arrival in Cleveland, accept and settle claims on the basis of damage to the shipment as shown by the Government certificate, and settle for this damage according to the market quotations carried in our daily report for the corresponding date. Requests for the market and quotations on various commodities are received almost daily from other railroads outside of Cleveland. Numerous requests are received from railroad officials, as well as members of the trade, for arrival and unload information, especially comparative data for corresponding periods of previous years. It appears as if our work and efforts are being recognized more and more by receivers, carriers and shippers as of vital importance to the fruit and vegetable industry and a service that is indispensable."

B. C. BORET,
Specialist in Market News.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. MICHIGAN ONION INSPECTIONS BEING HANDLED FROM INDIANA

In a letter of February 7, from Indianapolis, J. E. Dickerson advised that a licensed inspector has been sent to Plainwell, in Allegan County, Michigan, to inaugurate the shipping-point inspection of onions in that district. The certificates, however, will be typed at the Warsaw, Indiana, office and receiving-point inspectors should wire Warsaw for reports on Michigan inspections. Indiana car-cards will likely be used, but they will be chalked with a Michigan mark.

2c. REPORTS ON DISEASE SPECIMENS SENT IN TO PATHOLOGISTS

Inspectors, who receive reports from pathologists on specimens forwarded to Washington or Chicago for examination, are sometimes inclined to complain because the reports which they receive are not as specific as they desire. It should be remembered, in this connection, that the identification of a disease or a physiological condition is not easy when only three or four specimens are at hand. Frequently, determining factors in the identification of such troubles are location in the lot, relative location with respect to other specimens, temperature and moisture conditions, etc. The pathologist does not have this information when he examines only three or four specimens received by mail. There should also be taken into consideration the fact that the inspector sending in these specimens does not himself know just what the specimens will show when cut. This is particularly true in the case of freezing-injury. The fact that all came from the same location does not necessarily mean that all will show the same evidence of injury. When our specialists send back a report that three apples, out of five submitted, show evidences of freezing-injury but the other two do not, the fact that all came from the same location is no proof that the diagnosis was incorrect. The inspector must add his own observations to the information received on any set of specimens.

Many information-cards received with specimens contain practically no information. It is realized that the inspector frequently knows but little of the history of the lot in question, but the fact that some who send in specimens always send cards well-filled-out with useful information leads us to believe that there can be improvement in this connection on the part of many inspectors.

3c. ATTENTION ALL OFFICES:

The Federated Fruit and Vegetable Growers is indebted to the Inspection Service in the amount of $30.94 for inspections made in several different markets during the past year. Each office is instructed to make no further inspections for this firm, except for cash in advance, until this account is paid.

MERCHANTABLE POTATO HOLDINGS on January 1 in 35 late States together were 88,954,000 bushels, or scarcely 1% less than a year ago. The 19 surplus States which make most of the shipments had 81,370,000 bushels, or about 1% more than their holdings of last season. East and North the holdings are lighter than a year ago, but an excess of 28% appears in the West.

4c. HEAVY INSPECTIONS AT NEW YORK SHIPPING-POINTS

J. A. Marks included the following report in a letter from Rochester on February 8:-

"Up to February 1 we had inspected 6,478 cars, as follows: apples 3,667; grapes 1,300; potatoes 924; pears 315; tomatoes 111; cabbage 74; mixed fruit 47; celery 24; onions 9; peaches 6; carrots 1. Work still continues rather heavy, though considerably lighter than it was in November. Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays are likely to be big days, with frequently a slack period in the middle of the week. Quality of the apples is not nearly so good as it was, and we are finding considerable scald and decay."

5c. REPORT OF WEST VIRGINIA INSPECTIONS THIS SEASON THROUGH JANUARY

J. J. Gardner submitted the following interesting report of West Virginia shipping-point inspections for the 1930 season through January, 1931:-

	Barrel apples	Basket apples	Mixed apples	Sacked apples	Potatoes	Peaches	Total
U.S. No. 1:	912	247	1	-	35	17	1212
Not U.S. No. 1:	92	23	1	-	1	1	118
U.S. Utility:	58	16	-	1	2**	-	77
Not U.S. Utility	13	3	-	-	-	-	16
U.S. Commercial:	207	50	-	-	-	-	257
Not U.S. Commercial:.	44	15	-	-	-	-	59
Part in and part out:	40	28	-	-	-	-	68
Unclassified:	44	10	-	-	-	-	54
Totals:	1410	392	2	1	38	18	1861

** U.S. No. 2 potatoes

Summary for Apples:-

Cars in grade as marked:.....	1492	Export form certificates:	1237
Cars out of grade as marked:..	191	" refused a/c arsenic:	336
Part in and part out:	68	" refused a/c worms:	2
Unclassified:.....	54		
Total:	1805		

Summary by Months

1930 Season	Apples	Potatoes	Peaches	Total
July	33	2	-	35
August	15	18	15	48
September	289	13	3	305
October	983	3	-	986
November	350	1	-	351
December	68	-	-	68
January	67	1	-	68
Totals	1,805	38	18	1,861

6c. BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

J. S. Neill Co., of Rochester, N.Y., has been declared bankrupt. Unpaid bills against this firm should be forwarded to Washington for collection.

7c. DECEMBER SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN WASHINGTON

F. E. Bailey, of the Yakima office, reported 3,873 inspections at shipping points in the State of Washington, as follows:

December Inspections

Apples	3,307	Onions	11
Mixed fruit	6	Pears	282
Mixed vegetables	1	Potatoes	266
		Total	3,873

Total inspections from July 1, 1930, until the end of December were 34,053.

8c. ACTIVE INSPECTION WORK IN CALIFORNIA

California "Inspectors' Notes" for February 6 contained the following report of January inspections at shipping points in that State:

District		District	
El Centro-Brawley	2,733	San Francisco	251**
Los Angeles	511*	San Jose-Hayward	325
Sacramento	15	Santa Maria	287
San Diego	320	Watsonville	33
		Total:	4,475

* Including 34 shipside inspections. ** Including 122 at shipside.

In commenting on this volume of work, W. F. Allewelt, in charge, published the following statement:

"Inspections during the month of December were materially in excess of those for the same month in any previous year. The total for the month of January is 4,319 cars, (not including 156 shipside inspections), which is more than three times the volume handled during any previous January. Exclusive of the great increase in the Imperial Valley, where 2,733 cars were inspected during this month, the volume of 1,586 cars for the rest of the State is greater than the total for the entire State during January of any other year, and practically all districts have shown an increase over their work for the same period last season.

"This increased use of the Inspection Service has been due in large part to the realization of the growers and shippers of its value in their operations. The work in Imperial Valley this winter has resulted in far more attention than formerly being paid to the operations of harvesting, trimming, culling and packing. Shippers have estimated that they are culling out about 30% to 35% more of the lettuce being brought into the packing houses in field crates than they did in former seasons. Consequently, a very marked improvement has been apparent in the grade and pack.

"While this has not insured profitable markets, in view of the limited demand and low prices being paid for lettuce, in common with other commodities, it unquestionably has restricted the movement of poor quality and packs and has definitely limited the total volume being moved."

ABOUT 8% of the 1930 potato crop in the 35 late shipping States was reported to be unfit for either food or seed. About 18% was saved by growers for food on their own farms. About 11% was held for local seed-requirements.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING JANUARY, 1931

SYMBOLS N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS	ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS				
	Fruits and vegetables PASSED	Fruits and vegetables REJECTED	TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED	"Cuts" made to comply with specifications	Items Billed Short-weight
STATIONS	N M	N M	N M	N M	N M
CHARLESTON	168514 0	23614 0	192128 0	0 0	0 0
GREAT LAKES	129890 0	3640 0	133530 0	25 0	0 0
NEW YORK	373646 64052	15531 140	389177 64192	0 0	0 0
NORFOLK	751096 0	0 0	751096 0	0 0	0 0
PHILADELPHIA	366895 25794	2805 122	369700 25916	255 19	0 0
SAN DIEGO	804270 58082	26446 1224	830716 59306	7001 93	0 0
SAN FRANCISCO	712739 50500	36000 0	748739 50500	0 0	0 0
SAN PEDRO	876662 0	26629 0	903291 0	690 0	0 0
VALLEJO	167745 35948	12893 1116	180638 37064	25 0	0 0
TOTAL	4351457 234376	147558 2602	4499015 236978	7996 112	0 0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD:					
NEW YORK	11482	0	11482	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL:					
CHICAGO	34911	5245	40156	0	0
MILWAUKEE	12305	570	12875	0	0
NEW YORK	138140	1334	139474	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	39719	11410	51129	0	0
ST. LOUIS	26029	310	26339	0	0
TOTAL	251104	18869	269973	0	0

The New York office also inspected the following:	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	26299	111262	253
Munson S.S. Line	10914	70267	1537
Dollar S.S. Line	8542	23727	1010
American France Line	3633	16538	140
American Diamond Line	4894	19603	280
American India Line	4314	16863	0
American Brazil Line	841	5316	140
Total	59437	263576	3360

The San Pedro office also inspected 4,735 lbs. bread, 13,310 lbs. butter, 3,325 lbs. cheese; the Vallejo office also inspected 31,256 lbs. bread and 810 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

9c. NOGALES INSPECTIONS SHOW INCREASE.

R. H. Bertelson wrote from Nogales, under date of February 1, the following:

"For the month of January we inspected a total of 405 cars, compared with 295 a year ago for the corresponding month. The inspections consisted of 245 tomatoes, 108 peas, 27 bell peppers, 13 string beans, 11 mixed, and 1 eggplant. This brings the total inspections made here this season to 626 cars, as against 388 by this time last season.

"Tomato shipments at present are practically at a standstill, due to the fact that another heavy rain occurred on the West Coast of Mexico about five days ago. The quality arriving of late has shown a great deal of improvement over shipments of the first part of the season. Good cars at present are selling as high as $5 delivered; however, there has been a great deal of variation in the quality of tomatoes shipped so far this season.

"I believe, on account of the recent rain, that shipments of tomatoes for the next week or 10 days will be very light. Today 58 cars arrived, of which all were peas with an exception of one car. The pea market this season has been in excellent shape and a great deal of money has been made by the operators here. The market for the past month has held anywhere from $7 to $10 for good-quality peas, delivered."

10c. A VERY IMPORTANT CORRECTION (change figures in D.L. for Jan. 23)

All who maintain a file of Division Letters, or who expect to make any reference to Par. 4c in the D.L. dated January 23, 1931, should turn at once to that article and change the figure relating to cannery-tomato inspections in Indiana from "seventeen million pounds" to read "one hundred and seventy million pounds." The figure in parenthesis should also be changed from (8,500 tons) to read (85,000 tons). Mr. Dickerson confesses to an error in arithmetic in his original article.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. ANOTHER SHIPPER HELPED BY P.A.C. ACT

The following letter was received by the Regulatory Branch from a shipper, regarding result of an investigation made by O. N. Harsha and R. H. Shoemaker of a complaint under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. This complaint was first filed with the State Department of Agriculture of Virginia and by that Department referred to us:-

"Your letter of February 5th, relative to our claim against _____, received. We received a check from _____ for $168.21 in payment for balance due on February 5th and passed check for payment through the bank on February 6th.

"We greatly appreciate your efforts in our behalf in collecting our claim and should like to have you advise us what our indebtedness is with the Department, so that we may remit."

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. GRADES FOR NEW YORK SEED POTATOES

We have received copies of grades for seed potatoes, issued by the New York Cooperative Seed Potato Association, Inc. Because of our limited supply, copies are being mailed with this D.L. only to those inspection offices east of the Mississippi River. If other inspectors have need of these grades, they can be obtained by writing to H. S. Duncan, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N.Y.

It should be observed that the tolerance of 6% by weight for defects, noted under tolerances for Blue Tag Fancy, also applies to Blue Tag Standard. Definition "K" is interpreted to mean that 85% of the potatoes must be free from scab.

2d. HOW TO TELL WHEN POTATOES ARE GOOD FOR POTATO-CHIPS, ETC.

A multigraphed circular, entitled: "A Simple Chemical Test for Predetermining the Culinary Quality of Potatoes as Affected by the Accumulation of Soluble Sugars," is being sent with this D.L. to each inspector. This was prepared by Walter M. Peacock and Byron C. Brunstetter, of the Office of Horticultural Crops and Diseases, B.P.I. It describes the picric acid test for reducing sugars and is applicable to the selection of potatoes for chip-making, French-frying, baking, and under certain conditions for boiling.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman will attend the convention of the Virginia Canners' Association in the Patrick Henry Hotel at Roanoke, Virginia, February 18 and 19, particularly to discuss the operation of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, concerning which many of the canners seem to have relatively little information. This is the first canners' meeting, to which a representative of the Department has been invited to discuss the new law.

B. C. Boree plans to leave Washington on Sunday morning to confer with representatives of the Market News Service in the South. He expects to visit Charleston, S.C.; various points in Florida; Mobile, Ala.; New Orleans and Hammond, La.; Crystal Springs, Miss. and Atlanta, Ga. Arrangements will be made for handling the southern field assignments during the coming spring. Mr. Boree may not return to Washington until about the middle of March.

J. J. Gardner, of the Pittsburgh inspection office, is spending a few days of this week in the West Virginia apple territory, where he supervises the shipping-point inspection work each season. Yesterday he gave an address before the West Virginia Horticultural Society, at Inwood, on the subject: "Are the New Apple Grades Helpful to the Average Grower?" Mr. Gardner also spent a short time in Martinsburg, W. Va.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

J. A. Marks, Federal Supervising Inspector in New York State, returned to Pittsburgh this week, where he is in charge of inspection work during Mr. Gardner's absence. He is expected to go back to the Rochester office early next week.

R. C. Butner went to New York City last night, where he is conferring today with the inspectors in that market. He will return to Washington on Saturday.

R. H. VonGlahn, inspector at Jacksonville, Fla., inspected 57 carloads of citrus fruit during the third week of January and a total of 129 cars between January 1 and 29, which is a record for that market. Most of these inspections were of fruit being shipped by boat to England and other foreign markets.

Field men who submit weekly crop and market news should be sure to send a carbon copy directly to G. B. Fiske, under separate cover. The originals of all such letters come to Mr. Boree's desk and ordinarily are used in the Division Letter. Copies of such information are used by Mr. Fiske, of the Division of Economic Information, in the preparation of press articles and sectional reviews.

The New York City office was closed on February 12, because Lincoln's Birthday is observed there as a local holiday.

No change is being made this week in the list of Temporary Field Stations of the Market News Service. On the list of Temporary Headquarters of the Inspection Service, the closing date for the Winchester office has been made February 28, instead of February 15, and in the footnotes Michigan onions should be added to Indiana onions, on which shipping-point inspection reports can be obtained from the Warsaw, Ind., office.

Monday, February 23, will be observed as a holiday in all offices, because Washington's Birthday comes this year on Sunday.

The following report was released at 2 P.M. today, Friday:-

4a. APPLE COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS, FEBRUARY 1

Below is the report of commercial cold-storage holdings of apples on February 1, with comparative figures:

	Feb. 1, 1931	Feb. 1, 1930	Five-year Avg.
Barrels:	837,000	1,316,000	2,119,000
Boxes:	15,350,000	10,149,000	10,558,000
Baskets:	4,476,000	4,005,000	2,647,000

Total holdings under refrigeration were equivalent to 7,446,000 barrels, which is 23% more than stocks of a year ago and 14% above average.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 8 February 20, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. AIDING P.A.C. WORK

Item 1-a on page 99 of last week's Division Letter (February 13) should not result in creating uncertainty in the minds of any employees with respect to their official connection with the administration of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

Experience has shown that the indiscriminate mixing of service and regulatory activities can seldom be efficiently accomplished. We plan to keep separate these two activities in the work of this Division, in so far as it is practicable and possible. Market-news men must, of necessity, maintain cordial relations with the members of the trade, to whom they look for voluntary furnishing of information. The success of regulatory work, on the other hand, is not so dependent upon the maintenance of a cordial relationship. Good-will is not essential, although it is desirable.

Market-news employees must do everything in their power to aid in the successful administration of this Act by those charged with that duty, but should be most careful to avoid doing anything themselves or participating in any action which would endanger their cordial relationships and personal contacts with the members of the trade, to whom they look for daily or current market information. We shall be careful to avoid asking a market-news man to do any regulatory work which will, in any material way, militate against the good-will that has been built-up on the part of the trade toward the service. If there are any exceptions to this policy, they will be very few and only in isolated cases.

Drumming-up parties who should be licensed and securing their applications will improve rather than injure the standing of a news man in the opinion of the regularly licensed trade, upon whom he depends for information. It will not be our policy to ask him to participate in proceedings against any dealer in his town.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT P.A.C. MEMORANDUM OF FEBRUARY 10

Some weeks ago, lists of licensees were sent, for checking, to about 60 employees of our F. & V. Division. Under date of February 10, a special Memorandum to Field Men was prepared particularly for these 60 employees, giving further instructions in the matter. It was intended originally to mail the Memorandum to these 60 and to no others. However, at the last minute, when the D.L. for Feb. 13 was ready to be mailed, it was decided to enclose a copy of the Memorandum for each and every technical employee of our Division, simply as a matter of information, so that all might be acquainted with the classes of dealers (and others) who come under the provisions of the P.A.C. Act. If you are one who was not sent a list of dealers some weeks ago, the special Memorandum was furnished you simply for your information and not as instructions.

3a. AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

Whenever the word "released" is used, it means that the official report under consideration has been released by the Department to the press and to the public. The heading on front page of our Division Letter plainly states that the contents are "Confidential; not for publication." However, one exception (at least) to this rule is with reference to data or reports which have been officially released by the Bureau or the Department. All such officially-released information may be copied and be given free circulation by any branch office or field man. This question arose in connection with the monthly reports on cold-storage holdings of apples, which are usually published in the D.L. for the information of our employees. One field-station hesitated to publish such figures in the daily market reports because they appeared in our D.L., which is a confidential paper. Such figures can be used, since they are marked as having been officially released by the Department.

4a. JUNIOR MARKETING SPECIALIST EXAMINATION ANNOUNCED

The U.S. Civil Service Commission has announced a Junior Marketing Specialist examination - optional subjects (1) Fruits, Vegetables, and Miscellaneous Products; (2) Livestock and Animal Products; (3) Wool - for which applications must be on file with the Civil Service Commission at Washington not later than March 17, 1931. A limited number of announcements are available for distribution from this Bureau, and it is suggested that men who are interested in this examination be advised to secure announcements from their Postmasters or the Secretary of the Civil Service District.

5a. QUICK-FROZEN FRUIT JUICES

"Blend of California and Florida fruit juices, quick-frozen at the point of production, and distributed in glass bottles in the same way that milk is delivered, is an experiment now being successfully tried in Chicago as the test city. National distribution of these juices through institutional outlets, dairy concerns, door-to-door delivery and retail food shops is now being planned by the Pure Orange Juice Co. of America. Juice is supplied under a long-term contract with the California Fruit Growers' Exchange and the Florida Citrus Fruit Growers' Exchange. At present, juice is shipped in frozen form in refrigerator cars to Chicago in large 6-gallon cans in which it is frozen. A fiber container is being designed in which juice will be frozen in consumer packages. Frozen peaches in consumer packages are also being distributed by this organization."

THE MILWAUKEE OFFICE has advised of a hearty response to the Secretary's recent memorandum regarding the drought situation in the Southwest. Doubtless all of our branch offices have responded to this appeal.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. HEAVY RAINS AFFECTING IMPERIAL VALLEY LETTUCE CROP

The first field letter by A. E. Prugh, since he returned to the Market News Service, is published below. It was written from Brawley on February 11. It is in Mr. Prugh's characteristic style, and ends with the pertinent question: "Is beef-stew becoming more popular than lettuce-salad?" -

"Rainy weather in Imperial Valley during the week of February 2 caused lighter shipments and an advance in price of lettuce from a top of $1.10 to $1.55. Shipments were down to 66 cars on the 5th, but increased to 228 by the 9th and the market lost practically all of its advance.

"Yields are light and during the past few days considerable acreage has been lost from bursting. Cool weather had tightened the heads, and the rain, - one of the heaviest experienced here for several years, - caused the damage. Some shippers now report fields where they are able to get only 25 crates per acre. This condition may cause light shipments after this week, and there is a general feeling that by the last week in February the f.o.b. price may go up to $1.50 or better. In view of business conditions in the East, shippers do not expect any marked advance, as in other seasons with similar conditions at shipping point.

"The Inspection Service has a good record this season. Up to February 1 about 77% of the shipments had been inspected, and high quality was indicated by about 75% grading U. S. No. 1. Quality has been affected by recent rains and, where 80% of inspected cars were grading U.S. No. 1 the last week in January, on February 10 only 30% made this grade.

"Auction-selling apparently stimulated the demand for inspection. Not many cars are now being sold through the auction; only four on the 10th, out of a total of 212 cars. I question whether this method of sale is a good thing for the Valley. Apparently it takes the edge from trading. One hesitates to go out and buy a car in the forenoon for $1.35 and then have the auction top reach only $1.25. And some buyers prefer to go out and pick up the best cars early in the day. I notice that most of the auction-buying is being done by two or three buyers.

"The crate-making machines are a recent invention to cut labor-costs. One shed also has installed a lidding-machine, which not only presses down the lid but nails it on with one operation.

"A few crates of asparagus have commenced to move, and a car of peas is being loaded at Calipatria today, the 11th.

"Carrot shipments were curtailed by the wet fields, but increased to 13 cars on the 10th. Demand is good at present at $1.50 per crate. It seems that consumers in the East are economizing on beef-stew instead of eating lettuce-salad."

1½b. THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

"The continuation of the low rate of employment and reduced payrolls is being increasingly felt in the demand for farm products, so that little improvement in farm product prices can be expected until business improvement is material enough to allow increased employment and greater earnings." - (from "The Price Situation" for February 16)

2b. CALIFORNIA ASPARAGUS BROUGHT $48 PER CRATE

E. R. Biddle wrote as follows from New York on February 13:-

"The California asparagus season in New York City started with one crate on Wednesday, February 11, and it sold at $48. Today there were about 15 crates on the market. Large stock sold at $48, medium at $40, and small at $16-$20. Last year the first crate arrived on February 10 and several on the 13th, selling within a range of $20-$50."

3b. COLORADO CROP CONDITIONS OUTLINED

Bryce Morris wrote as follows from Denver in a letter of February 14:-

"Potato shipments from Colorado have been moderate the past week. Prices in San Luis Valley were about steady throughout the week, with dealers paying the farmers 75¢-80¢, mostly 80¢, for No. 1 Brown Beautys and 85¢-90¢ for No. 1 McClures. An eight-inch snowfall was reported in the Valley the latter part of this week. Farmers were holding back at present prices and, with their relatively light holdings, the Valley seems to be in good condition to clean up the year's movement without heavy shipments at any time.

"There are approximately 3,000 cars of potatoes yet in storage in northern Colorado, but on account of low prices and a portion of the poor quality stock being used as feed, it is probable that the remaining shipments will fall below this figure. There was a slightly stronger feeling in the Greeley section late this week, with dealers reported paying 60¢-65¢ on Standard Grade Rurals, and occasional cars higher. Limited offerings of Bliss Triumphs brought 60¢-65¢ to the grower, with demand much better for Triumphs than for Rurals.

"The Western Slope potato movement continued very light. It is difficult to buy from the growers at the present prices offered.

"The demand for onions has been so slow recently that some dealers report that cars have been refused on a consignment basis. Apparently most of the cars are for delivered sales, with some shippers unable to get bids on rollers. There is a wide difference of opinion on remaining supplies in the Arkansas Valley district, with estimates ranging from 55 to 200 or more cars. It is evident that many more cars could have been shipped, had the demand been better. Very few sales have been reported the past week from the Rocky Ford section; the market is generally dull to weak. It is unofficially reported that large Valencias in Spanish-type crates, 50 size, sold as low as 85¢-90¢ late this week. Most of the large Valencias remaining are moving in crates and 50-pound sacks, with sales in 50-pound sacks around $1.35-$1.40 per cwt.

"Only 12 cars of Western Slope onions have been shipped this week. Advices from this district indicate 350 to 390 cars in storage at present, which, when sorted-out, will probably be reduced to 300 cars. Unless market conditions improve, it is quite probable that not over 200 additional cars will be moved. Growers generally were receiving 20¢ per cwt. for Yellow Danvers."

- IF YOUR COPY OF THE DIVISION LETTER IS EVER ADDRESSED INCORRECTLY OR IF YOU FAIL TO RECEIVE A COPY EACH WEEK, PLEASE BE SURE TO ADVISE THE EDITOR VERY PROMPTLY.

4b. COLD-PACK PEACHES FROM GEORGIA ARRIVING IN NEW ORLEANS

J. W. Coleman sent the following report from New Orleans in a letter of February 13:-

"A carload of Georgia cold-pack peaches was received here this week. The car was unloaded into cold storage at a temperature of 2° below zero. These peaches had been peeled, sliced and packed in one-pint paper containers and then frozen. For shipping, 36 pints were packed in a paper carton. Instructions on each pint container said to allow the container to stand in a room at ordinary temperature for two hours before serving. The manager of the cold storage stated that he watched one of the cartons that was left in the office and that the peaches had a normal, characteristic color three or four hours after being exposed to the warm temperature of 75 degrees. In six hours, many of the slices of peaches had turned black. Retailers are getting 45 cents per pint for these cold-pack peaches, but it is too soon yet to tell just what the reception will be."

5b. COLD-PACK FRUITS OR VEGETABLES NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN REPORTS

A question has been brought up as to whether these carlot receipts of cold-pack fruits and vegetables (mentioned above in Par. 4b) are to be included in our arrival and track reports. Such products are in the class of processed or canned goods, and are not to be included with the reports of fresh fruits and vegetables.

6b. NEW YORK MARKET RECEIVED 184,000 CARLOADS OF PERISHABLES

The following letter of February 12 came from E. R. Biddle:-

"We have our annual unload report about ready to release. Requests have been received for about 1,000 copies, and they are still coming in every day.

"Unloads for the year in New York City have dropped off from the previous year for the first time since we have been publishing these reports. There were about 3,600 cars less than in 1929, caused no doubt by crop-failures in some sections and by the lessened buying-power in the market. There was an increase of about 3,500 in the number of carloads of fruits and vegetables imported. The loss in unloads of domestic commodities was about 7,100 carloads.

"It is interesting to note that we have reported 86 different commodities, grown in 42 of the 48 States and in 19 foreign countries in Europe, Africa, South America, Mexico, Canada and the West Indies. The total unloads (not including bananas) are 184,226 carloads. About one-half of this total came from California and Florida. About 66,300 carloads moved from the far-western States of California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington. This is about 4,300 cars more than moved from those States in 1929. On the other hand, all of the eastern States, except New York and North Carolina, fell below former records.

"Most of the important commodities were in lighter supply except grapes, grapefruit, pears, and some of the other small fruits."

(continued over)

- WHEN YOU OBSERVE ANY SERIOUS ERRORS IN THE D.L., PLEASE CALL THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EDITOR. MINOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS ARE BOUND TO CREEP IN AND CAN BE FORGOTTEN.

"Truck receipts were somewhat lighter ton the general commission or jobbing markets but show a decided increase on the farmers' markets. I am not sure whether this is due to more-accurate reports from the city's reporters or whether to more growers taking advantage of the farmers' markets in order to get a greater net return for their products."

7b. LATE NEWS ON FLORIDA TOMATOES, BEANS AND PEPPERS

V. H. Nicholson sent the following report in a letter of February 14 from Miami:-

"Weather conditions in southern Florida during the past week have remained rather favorable. There was a threatened cold-wave Tuesday, but the lowest temperatures were in the upper 40's and no damage other than retarding the growth of the crops was reported. There were showers on Monday and Tuesday, but the total rainfall was light in most producing areas.

"Despite the more favorable conditions, quality of most shipments of tomatoes remains rather ordinary. Most of the stock now moving has been picked from plants that stood the cold weather during December and January and have failed to recover sufficiently to produce tomatoes of the best quality. If favorable weather continues, quality should improve as the old plantings recover and the newer ones come into bearing.

"Shipments of tomatoes increased slightly this week, but are still rather light and probably will remain so for another 10 days or two weeks. The heavier imports of Mexican stock this week have done much to curtail the demand for Florida stock. Wire-inquiry during the past few days has been somewhat lighter than last week, and there have been only a few cars of good tomatoes sold on a cash-track basis. Shipments today should be heavier as several loaded cars have accumulated at the shipping points, principally south of here.

"The carlot shipments of beans have increased slightly this week, but probably will not amount to over 65 cars. The market has been largely speculative, and most shippers have been operating at a loss. The competition at the platform at Pompano has been very keen; prices were up to mostly $6-$6.50 for the best grade of Bountifuls on Thursday. The market reacted on Friday, however, and it is probable that prices will be somewhat lower next week.

"Shipments of peppers have increased considerably, but the market remains dull and weak. Quality of most shipments has been reported as fairly good, but prices to growers around Pompano have remained mostly $1.65-$1.85 for the Fancy grade, with Choice selling at 75¢-85¢. Several of the cars shipped during the last few days have been consigned."

8b. REVISED TABLE OF NUMBER OF PACKAGES PER CARLOAD

A couple of weeks ago the Washington office put out a revised edition of the "Table of Number Packages per Carload." This is dated January, 1931, and the tabulations are arranged in improved form. This booklet covers all the important fruits and vegetables and is of value to all members of our staff. Any office which has failed to receive a copy of the revised table, which includes 26 pages, can obtain one on request from the Washington office.

9b. IDAHO POTATO SHIPMENTS HEAVY AND PRICES LOW

A letter of February 12, from L. C. Tate at Idaho Falls, gives the following information:-

"Idaho potato shipments have continued heavy this month, in the face of slightly lower prices, so that the season's total movement now amounts to approximately 5,000 cars more that at the same time last year. In view of the generally accepted opinion that we will ship 10,000 cars more than last season, it appears the State has now moved half of the excess in this year's crop.

"Many dealers seem to feel that it will be to their advantage to sell futures for April delivery on the Chicago exchange at current figures of $1.70-$1.75 delivered, indicating by their talk that they have no hope of an advance in prices this spring. Traders are generally turning stocks only as their sales-orders demand; so that the deal shows an entire lack of confidence, enthusiasm, and speculation. It seems a 25 to 50-car order can be filled readily upon receipt, without the slightest effect on daily prices.

"Wednesday of this week was one of the heaviest days of 'cash-track' trading since digging-time. At upper valley points we were advised of sales on 110 cars. In addition 34 cars were reported sold 'cash-track' at lower valley points and 34 cars were reported bought on the basis 'carloads cash to growers.' This gives a total of 178 carlot sales within our knowledge. A check of sales in bulk for all districts on the same day amounted to 118 carloads.

"Many of the smaller warehouse men have quit trading in cash during the last six weeks, preferring to handle the potatoes for the farmers on commission. This is probably the result of the present price situation, growers demanding cost or better (65¢-75¢) for their bulk stocks, and dealers compromising on the commission basis, instead of attenpting to deal for cash at 50¢-55¢ per cwt.

"Concerning the demand for plain bags, a new amendment to the State Grading and Branding Law has been worked-up and passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 52 to 15. The revised amendment allows the optional use of plain bags for shipments grading No. 2 or better. It is now being read in the State Senate, where the previous amendment was defeated, and, judging by local comment, it stands a fine chance of being accepted. This bill carries an emergency clause, to make it effective promptly when signed by the Governor."

10b. FROZEN CORN ON THE COB

"Successful experiments have been made in sharp freezing corn on the cob. It is frozen within three or four hours after it is taken from the field and the flavor, when it is thawed out and eaten weeks or months later, is perfect and infinitely better than the ears of corn which are sent to big markets fresh, the difference being that sharp freezing holds the flavor as it was when picked, and shipped corn for delivery fresh is two to six days old by the time consumers get it."
(O. Lockett, before National Canners Ass'n.)

-- SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE D.L. WILL BE WELCOMED. --

11b. HEAVY CANNING OF GRAPEFRUIT IN FLORIDA

The large number of 2,500,000 cases of grapefruit will probably be packed by canneries in Florida this season, according to a letter of February 16 from H. F. Willson, at Winter Haven:-

"One of the main topics of discussion at a shipper meeting of the Clearing House members here on February 13 was the canned grapefruit situation and its effect on the fresh fruit market. Shippers reported their receivers advise that the low-priced canned grapefruit is curtailing consumption and depressing the market for fresh fruit on the northern markets. It was stated that, in numerous instances, chain stores were featuring the canned product at two cans for a quarter, which means selling the equivalent of an ordinary-sized grapefruit at less than a nickel or approximately 4⅓¢. The canners themselves, however, are not having a particularly easy marketing program, because of the prevailing price-cutting to the jobbers, necessitating substantial rebates on some of their first sales of relatively-high-priced goods. The price of canner stock has declined to 30¢ a field box and, at the present time, practically all of this stock is being secured from packing houses, as contrasted to the first part of the season when the growers were selling direct to the canners. It is estimated that approximately 2,500,000 cases will be canned this year. To date, about 1,900,000 cases have been canned, compared with 1,300,000 last season. It was reported that the canners have about 450,000 cases on hand.

"The present price of 30¢ per box for canner stock would allow the canning companies to continue operations profitably on the present low-scale retail price. As the shippers and packing houses are supplying the fruit at this price and eventually it competes disastrously with their fresh fruit, it was decided to raise the price of canner stock to 50¢ a box. It is hoped that a minimum of 50¢ to the canner can be maintained for the remainder of the season, eliminating additional supplies of low-priced canner goods. Some expressed the opinion that the majority of the canners would welcome any movement for establishing a consistent fair price for canner stock throughout the season, which would eliminate price-cutting in their industry and do away with the disastrous competition between the canned and fresh fruit.

"Interesting sidelights of the general discussion were that the canners are buying large-sized Valencias for a salad pack, consisting of grapefruit and oranges. Also, that a field box of good canner stock will make approximately one case of canned goods. If the estimate of 2,500,000 cases is correct, this item alone accounts for a like number of boxes, giving one a concrete example of the increasing importance of the citrus canning industry."

12b. A NEW USE FOR VEGETABLES

Ice cream containing vegetables has appeared on the market among the Fred Sanders specialties and has met with a most encouraging reception. The regular vanilla mix, with orange juice supplanting the vanilla flavor, forms the base to which are added finely-chopped beets, carrots, spinach, celery, beans and peas after separate cooking. Three days after its appearance in the stores, 200 gallons a day were being manufactured.

13b. MAINE SEED-POTATO MARKET STILL IN GOOD CONDITION

W. D. Hull sent the following report from Presque Isle under date of February 16::-

"Considering the heavy shipments all last week, the Maine potato market did well to hold its own. The larger operators cut their street price to $1.65 per barrel on Monday forenoon. Haulings by growers were too light to determine how successful the buyers would be in obtaining potatoes at this new low price. Tuesday, offerings by the growers were made a little more freely. Shippers with houses at non-competitive points reported a fair quantity of stock received at $1.65-$1.70 per barrel. In the villages and in areas where the stock was a little better than average, the street price was still mostly $1.75, while a few dealers in Presque Isle and Caribou continued to pay $1.80-$1.85 for large bright stock, for which they had a special outlet. Thursday was what many dealers termed 'a one-horse-holiday.' With a wire-inquiry better than usual, a slightly better feeling developed among the shippers. Every one was marveling at the market's ability to absorb the heavy shipments. With track-holdings in the principal Maine markets smaller than average, several large operators advanced their price to the growers from $1.65 and $1.70 to $1.75 and reported rather light receipts even at the higher price. Friday and Saturday, haulings were very light because of inclement weather. Late Friday afternoon it comenced snowing, turning to rain during the night. Saturday forenoon was rainy, turning to snow around noon. Haulings were so light that no attempt was made to quote a price to growers.

"There has been a very good demand for No. 2 stock at 80¢-85¢ per 150-pound sack f.o.b. During the latter part of the past week, an occasional car was sold for 90¢. Most of the demand is from the area about greater New York, where these No. 2 potatoes are used by the various charitable organizations in the free soup-kitchens for the unemployed. There is also some call from the export trade.

"Demand for seed stock continued brisk all the week. Wire inquiry was active and many sales were confirmed, both for prompt and for future shipment. Shipments of both selected and certified Cobblers showed a considerable advance over the preceding week. At the close of the week, all the dealers were in an optimistic frame of mind and held higher hopes regarding the future outlook for the seed situation. F.o.b. prices of certified Cobblers and Green Mountains were firm at $2.75-$3 for 10-peck bags of Mountains and 11-peck bags of Cobblers. The 11-peck bags of Mountains were bringing $3-$3.25 for March or early April shipment. Selected Cobblers sold freely at $1.70-$1.75 for 10-peck sacks, while 11-peck size brought $1.85-$1.90. Supplies of certified Cobblers are practically exhausted, and growers were demanding and receiving a premium for any unsold stock which they held."

14b. HONEY SOLD DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS OR RETAILERS

"Honey is being offered in attractive containers to grocers and other retailers in local areas. Some beekeepers have developed good markets by house-to-house canvassing or farm-to-farm selling. Some have arranged with dairymen to handle honey to be delivered with milk, cream, butter, and eggs in the morning. Other beekeepers are running advertisements in local newspapers and are developing a parcel-post business. Direct-mail selling is being developed also by circularizing people whose names appear in telephone directories. Roadside honey stands are also increasing in number." -
(by H. J. Clay)

15b. MEXICAN VEGETABLES BEING RESHIPPED FROM BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

An interesting letter of February 15 was received from W. D. Googe, at Brownsville, Texas. It is as follows:-

"Nothing out of the ordinary has happened during the last two weeks in marketing lower Rio Grande Valley vegetables, unless the continuous slow demand and dull markets be considered unusual. Despite resolutions and agreements at meetings of growers and shippers, prices for cabbage have steadily declined until growers are now being paid mostly $4-$5 per ton. Shippers have been taking only U. S. No. 1 stock of medium size, the large heads being culled out. Many growers do not care to hire help to harvest cabbage at these low prices, and therefore are letting it go to waste or plowing it under. Some have estimated that, as a result of these factors, shipments of cabbage from the Valley during the last week have not been more than half of what might have been moved under more favorable market conditions. The quality of the output has been excellent.

"Carrot shipments have increased without a noticeable decline in prices, but this is attributed to light shipments from California, following rainy weather. Texas has more or less a monopoly on the carlot movement of beets, but supplies have been heavy enough to fill all orders and even to depress prices somewhat. Considerable spinach remains to be shipped in this section, but the 30¢ and 35¢ cash-track prices, which have prevailed in the Winter Garden district, are too low for the Valley, and most of the local crop has been going in mixed cars at 40¢-50¢ per bushel basket. Turnips have been draggy at $1.10-$1.15 per lettuce crate, cash-track, and about 10¢ higher on wire orders. These prices are about the same as those for beets and carrots.

"Limited quantities of snap beans, bell peppers, squash and tomatoes are being brought in from Mexico. They are grown in the vicinity of Manuel, near Tampico. The beans have sold freely at $4.75-$5 per bushel hamper f.o.b. Brownsville. Quality of the beans has been good, peppers and squash excellent, while the tomatoes have been only fair. So far, all these imports have been used in mixed cars."

16b. ACTIVE DEMAND FOR FLORIDA CELERY

J. B. Owens wrote from Sanford as follows in a letter of February 16:

"Florida celery continued to move under a very active demand during the past week, with most of the shippers filling orders booked in advance of their loadings. Shipments for the week were rather light, with a daily average of approximately 50 cars. About 1,790 cars had been shipped from the State through February 13, which is 707 less than the movement for the same period last year. The celery now being harvested is reported to be packing-out around 450 to 500 crates to the acre, which is slightly below the average yield for this section. In view of the relatively light yield and the general lateness of the crop, it is expected that the shipments for this week will not exceed 400 cars.

"Quality of the crop has shown very little change, pithiness and poorly-blanched stock continuing to be the outstanding defects. The f.o.b. market continues firm on last Monday's price-level, which raised the local market 25¢ on all sizes and packs. Crates of U. S. No. 1 quality are now selling at $2.50 for 3-6 dozen's, $2.25 for 8 dozen's, and $1.75 for 10 dozen's."

17b. POSSIBLY 1,680,000 BOXES OF FLORIDA CITRUS HAULED BY TRUCK

The following letter of February 10 was received from H. F. Willson, of the Winter Haven office:-

"It is the general opinion that the quantity of citrus fruit trucked out of the State this season is larger than ever before. Realizing the increasing importance of this movement, the Florida Citrus Exchange employed six checkers to ascertain the volume of citrus leaving the State over the three main highways. These checkers worked 24 hours during the lightest part of the week in the latter part of January. They reported over 6,000 boxes. Calculating the probable movement over the other highways, the weekly movement was estimated at 56,000 boxes or a total of 1,680,000 for the 30-weeks seasonal shipping-period.

"Some, in close touch with the trucking situation, believe that this estimated total for the season is entirely too high. To substantiate their opinions, they cite that during December and January is the heaviest truck movement, chiefly on account of the relatively large quantity of cheaper bulk fruit available. Some of this earlier truck movement helps supply the heavy holiday demand. Then, too, during December and January there are many more trucks engaged in the business than later in the year. During the early part of the season, a considerable number of the truckers are farmers, temporarily filling-in a slack time but who later turn their activities to farming. When the fruit is cheap and it does not require much capital, the peddler is able to operate; but, later in the season, the higher prices force out many of this class. There are some truckers, however, who operate the season through. These latter operators have good equipment, sufficient capital, and maintain connections at the selling-end. The territory covered by the truckers is the southeastern States. Although the majority of the fruit is for the nearby States, some of it is hauled as far north as Norfolk and Memphis."

18b. WESTERN NEW YORK ONION MARKET SHOWS TEMPORARY IMPROVEMENT

A letter of February 17, from R. L. Sutton at Rochester, gives the following report on New York crops:-

"Trading in western New York vegetables has been characterized by a degree of slowness that has caused shippers to become uneasy as to the final outcome of the deal. The f.o.b. market has consistently been in the buyer's favor. Values have declined slightly from previous low prices, with the exception that at the close of the week a temporary improvement was noted for onions. At the beginning of this week, however, any gain of last week seemed to have been lost. The demand was very slow, with very few sales holding mostly around 65¢ per 100-pound sack. Cabbage continued dull, in line with the condition existing during the past several weeks. Indications are that the market for this commodity will not show much of a rally before the holdings have been cleaned-up. The potato market has also remained for an extended period in the dull class. The distribution continued to show a large percentage of the billings destined for southern points. The price to growers has gone as low as 60¢ at some points, with most stations in Steuben County paying 65¢ bulk per bushel. Carrots have shown no improvement since our last report.

(continued over)

"Shipments of apples have been rather heavy, the loadings over the week-end and Monday, for instance, being 91 and 81 cars respectively. Nearly one-third of these are going for export. Cars shipped on consignment seem to predominate for both export and domestic business. Values have shown very little variation."

19b. RECENT NEWS ON SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA BERRIES AND CELERY

R. M. Peterson sent the following report from Plant City, Fla., on February 17:-

"The strawberry movement last week totaled 117 cars, 38 freight, 59 express, and 20 car-lots of pony refrigerators. Although this movement is 40% heavier than that of the previous week, it was not as heavy as expected. The shipments last week were equivalent to those of the same week in 1929 but were 40% heavier than the same week last season, which was the early-crop year. Saturday's movement, amounting to 33 cars, was the heaviest this season. The cooler weather caused yesterday's shipments to drop to 26 cars, and the temperature will have to increase considerably in order to make this week's shipments as heavy as was previously expected. With warm weather, this week's total should be around 200 cars.

"Quality of the berries has been generally good, but the better growers state that they have had to cull out 10% of the berries as brought in from the field. The shipping-point market showed a slightly easier tone, and prices to growers dropped from 15¼¢ per pint on Monday to 13 3/4¢ on Saturday, which averaged about 3¢ per pint lower than for the same week last season.

"The Manatee-Sarasota celery cutting is very light. The winter crop is mostly harvested, and the spring crop will not be ready for nearly a month. The individual washing and precooling plant in Sarasota operated but one day last week and will operate but very little this week. The crate washing and precooling plant in Manatee is working only the first two or three days of each week, with an output of three to seven cars daily. This situation is not expected to change until March 15 or possibly April 1. The spring crop will be much heavier than the winter crop."

J. G. CROSS has reached San Francisco on his western itinerary in the interest of shipment reports. Early next week (about February 24) he expects to proceed to Portland, Seattle, Spokane and other points in the Pacific Northwest. Later, he will visit railroad officials in Ogden, Salt Lake City and Denver, on his return trip East.

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. A BIG PIECE OF INSPECTION WORK UNDERTAKEN IN PORTO RICO

The Bureau has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Fruit Growers' Improvement Committee of Porto Rico to provide shipping-point inspection in Porto Rico for citrus and other fruits, and for vegetables if the need develops. The service will begin April 1.

These arrangements are the direct result of the investigations conducted on the Island for two months last fall by William E. Leigh, of our Division. Mr. Leigh found that the United States grades for Florida citrus fruits were applicable to Porto Rican fruits, and these grades will be used in the new inspection work.

More than 500,000 boxes of grapefruit have been promised for inspection by shippers. It is expected that this work will require the services of a supervising inspector and at least two licensed inspectors at the beginning of the season. A. S. Mason, a member of the New York staff, will probably be assigned as supervisor. If inspection is extended to other fruits and to vegetables, it is quite probable that five or six inspectors will be required. The Division is arranging to recommend for this work men who have had experience in Florida, although local men may be employed after the work develops.

This is the first time the fruit and vegetable inspection service has been extended beyond the borders of continental United States.

2c. DID YOU RECEIVE GRADES FOR HOT-HOUSE RHUBARB?

The following letter of February 12, from F. E. Bailey, at Yakima, Washington, is self-explanatory:-

"Will you kindly announce in the next issue of the Division Letter that copies of 'Grades for Hot-House or Cellar-Grown Rhubarb' of the Summer Rhubarb Growers Association, Sumner, Washington, were today mailed to all market inspection offices from my office?

"Car-lots of hot-house rhubarb are being certified under these grades at Sumner, and market inspectors are requested to keep these grades on file for future reference, in case they are called upon to reinspect one of these cars."

If any city inspection office failed to receive a copy of these rhubarb grades, one can be obtained directly from Mr. Bailey.

3c. SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN VIRGINIA TO FEBRUARY 1

F. S. Kinsey made the following report in Virginia "Inspection Notes" for February 17:-

Apple Inspections by Districts:

	Winchester	Staunton	Charlottesville	Roanoke	Total
To January 1:	2,806	481	712	278	4,277
Jan. 1 - 31:	412	28	39	24	503
Total	3,218	509	751	302	4,780

In addition to the above, 7,901 cars of potatoes were inspected during the potato season of last summer and 396 cars of sweet potatoes during the fall.

4c. KEEP RECORD OF RESTRICTED INSPECTIONS WHICH DO NOT CONFIRM ORIGINAL

It frequently happens that a shipper wires for confirmation inspection of a car on which a restricted inspection has to be made. When such inspection does not confirm the original, the shipper should be advised by wire to that effect and also be informed that an appeal certificate cannot be issued unless all parts of the load are made accessible. Even though no certificate is issued, the notes covering partial inspection of the load should be kept in the files for future reference. The notes, after being signed by the inspector, may be needed in considering a complaint filed under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and should be made a part of the inspection records in all offices.

5c. WASHINGTON SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS FOR SIX MONTHS

The following report appeared in the Washington "Inspection Letter," published at Yakima by F. E. Bailey on February 10:-

Inspections First Half of Fiscal Year, 1930-31:

Apples	25,709	Mixed fruits and vegs.	28
Apricots	30	Onions	690
Berries, F.P.	6	Peaches	16
Blackberries	1	Pears	2,801
Cantaloupes	4	Peas	498
Cauliflower	29	Potatoes	2,564
Celery	4	Prunes	432
Cherries	22	Raspberries	66
Crabapples	2	Rutabagas	12
Grapes	1	Spinach	159
Lettuce	346	Tomatoes	248
Mixed fruit	178	Watermelons	22
Mixed vegetables	184	6 Mos. Total	34,052

6c. MARYLAND REPORTS INCREASING USE OF INSPECTION SERVICE

The 1930 season was the seventh year in which Federal-State shipping-point inspection has been used by an increasing number of Maryland growers and shippers, says the Maryland Department of Markets. Seven commodities were inspected for 72 applicants, this being an increase of 8.7% in number of individual requests for the service. Inspections included 2,007 cars of strawberries and 672 cars of apples. It is estimated that at least 60% of the total movement of apples during August, September, October and November went out under Federal-State shipping-point inspection, compared with 30% in 1929. The Maryland Department says that the increase in apple inspections was due partly to the fact of threatened embargo by the British Government against the shipment of apples which did not meet U.S. grade requirements.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

-- ALL INSPECTORS should read Par. 8b in this D.L. --

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING JANUARY, 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total fees
Atlanta	92	73	15	0	$ 475.10
Baltimore	84	40	0	0	329.50
Boston	162	221	12	1	626.32
Buffalo	34	19	0	0	136.94
Chicago	300	200	13	0	1,435.89
Cincinnati	72	41	0	1	375.87
Cleveland	13	17	0	0	81.80
Columbus	23	25	0	0	117.58
Denver	12	18	0	0	44.00
Detroit	90	52	0	0	347.00
Fort Worth	15	19	0	3	68.41
Harrisburg	2	2	0	0	8.00
Houston	18	44	0	0	121.26
Indianapolis	22	27	0	0	142.42
Jacksonville	129	56	2	0	516.50
Kansas City	93	79	10	3	370.50
Los Angeles	19	28	10	0	74.00
Memphis	40	55	12	0	192.66
Milwaukee	66	71	1	0	280.22
Minneapolis	26	16	0	0	114.50
Newark	94	60	2	4	377.42
New Haven	43	53	6	0	229.34
New Orleans	113	129	22	0	272.12
New York	670	654	46	0	2,558.39
Norfolk	23	11	9	2	109.11
Omaha	38	29	4	1	158.95
Philadelphia	136	160	0	2	576.03
Pittsburgh	78	140	6	0	358.29
Portland	18	21	7	0	76.00
Providence	21	32	0	0	109.25
Rochester	16	-	1	0	86.83
Sacramento	6	1	1	0	27.50
St. Louis	81	64	7	0	322.50
Salt Lake City	1	4	0	0	4.00
San Francisco	7	21	0	0	27.70
Seattle	5	1	0	0	22.00
Springfield	37	49	7	0	203.37
Toledo	19	7	0	0	64.00
Trenton	1	4	0	0	4.00
Washington	55	109	1	0	272.47
Wilkes-Barre	14	10	1	0	59.50
Total	2,788	2,662	195	17	$11,777.24

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland: Total 1,489; 1,294 Nickel Plate; 13 B. & O.; 16 Erie; 24 Penna.; 57 Kroger; 5 for Federal Cold Storage.

OFFICE NOTES:

A. E. Mercker went to New Brunswick, N.J., yesterday and talked on the 1931 potato outlook at the New Jersey State Conference of County Agents, assembled at the College of Agriculture. Today he is in New York City and tomorrow he plans to stop at Philadelphia; in both these cities he is conferring with potato dealers.

John W. Dykes has been appointed as an Associate Marketing Specialist in connection with the investigational work under the Produce Agency Act and the P.A.C. Act, effective February 18. His legal residence is in New York State. This really is a reinstatement, as Mr. Dykes was originally appointed to this Bureau in 1915 as a clerk and was given a technical status in 1919. He resigned in 1920 to accept a position with the American Fruit Growers, Inc., which position he held until 1929. From July, 1929, to the present time, Mr. Dykes has been in California in connection with the enforcement of the California Produce Dealers Act and the Deciduous Fruit Dealers Act. He has the degree of LL.B. from Georgetown University, and studied in connection with the LaSalle Extension University for about one year.

S. F. Shreve, inspector in the Baltimore market, conferred yesterday with Mr. Butner and others in the Washington office.

N. W. Broome, the State representative of the inspection service in Virginia, has been critically ill with double pneumonia and pleurisy at his home in Poindexter, Va. We are glad to report that he is now showing satisfactory improvement and, if there is no unexpected change in his condition, he has a fine chance for recovery.

W. L. Evans has been away from his office in Washington since last Friday, due to illness.

Fred Read, a former employee of our F. & V. Division and for many years now connected with the California Fruit Exchange, at Sacramento, was among visitors to the Washington office this week.

P. V. Stay, one of the cooperative inspectors in California, is author of an article on "Modern Lettuce Inspection" in the January issue of the "Western Grower and Shipper."

Market-news men will be as much interested as inspectors in Par. 10c on page 114 of last week's D.L. All employees should make the correction, as noted.

On Tuesday afternoon, February 10, a group of short-course students from the New Jersey State Agricultural College visited the New York City markets on a tour of inspection. They called at our local office and listened to talks by W. C. Hackleman on the Inspection Service and by S. W. Russell on the Market News Service.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 9 February 27, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. SPECIAL LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION FOR P.A.C. ACT TRAVEL

Our Department of Agriculture appropriation bill for the coming fiscal year has been signed and $100,000 has become immediately available for P.A.C. Act work. Most members of the field force have received lists of licensees in the States in which they are located, and you have all been told how urgently we wish every man to canvass his town or his territory, so far as opportunity will permit, to determine what additional persons or firms should be licensed, and, if possible, to obtain their applications and their checks on the spot.

In some cases, field men can take time from their regular work to make an occasional trip to nearby towns or villages, for the purpose of checking these lists and locating additional persons who should be licensed. The expenses incident to trips which are primarily for P.A.C. work should be paid from P.A.C. Act funds. Therefore, the men who are so situated that they can devote an occasional day or half-day or several hours to the canvassing of adjacent territory, which will involve railroad travel or automobile mileage, should notify us at once of this fact, so that special letters of authorization can be drawn for them on the P.A.C. Act funds, against which to charge the expenses incident to these trips.

Men who are permanently located in a single city and who have no time to canvass outside points are expected to do what they can on this work, in addition to their regular duties. Any additional expense in such cases will be so small that separate accounts need not be rendered.

We wish the field men in the winter shipping-areas to give particular attention to this request, because the maximum number of persons subject to license should now be operating in Florida and southern Texas, and also in such sections as Maine, eastern Idaho and southern California. It is particularly important to secure the applications of the seasonal operators while they are actually at work.

In reporting your activities on P.A.C. Act work, always state the town or towns or the territory, which you feel has been completely canvassed and within which you believe all persons subject to license have either filed applications or have been reported to us as subject to the Act. If your canvass shows that we have already licensed everyone within a given territory, who appears to be subject to the Act, REPORT THIS FACT.

We are glad to note that some of the field men are taking a marked interest in this work and are obtaining useful results.

W. A. SHERMAN

PLEASE THROW AWAY ANY OLD COPIES of the Table of Packages per Carload in your possession, since the revised tabulation has been issued, as noted in Par. 8b of last week's D.L.

2a. A CARLOAD OF COLORADO ONIONS DONATED FOR DROUGHT SUFFERERS

E. F. McKune, Supervising Inspector at Denver, Colo., sent the following interesting letter under date of February 17:-

"In reading over the Division Letter, I note with pride the way our Division has responded to the call for relief work by the Red Cross Society.

"I have recently learned that Gard Corey, an inspector at Olathe, Colo., who has been with the service since 1921, has donated an entire car of onions for shipment to Arkansas. In getting this car ready for shipment, Mr. Corey gave the onions, the sacks, and his time in the supervision of the sorting and loading of the car. A local produce house furnished the equipment, power, and space for sorting. A number of the local people donated their time to sorting and loading of the car. This car, of course, - as in the case of many others, - was moved to destination free of charge by the railroads."

3a. STORAGE HOLDINGS IN CALIFORNIA ON FEBRUARY 15

The San Francisco office sent in the following summary of cold and dry-storage holdings of apples, pears, onions and potatoes in California on February 15, with comparative figures for two weeks previous and one year ago:

Commodity and Unit		Feb. 15, 1931	Jan. 30, 1931	Feb. 15, 1930
Apples	(Boxes)	2,041,248	2,304,169	1,170,779
Pears	(Boxes and Lugs)	207,453	252,024	128,124
Onions	(Sacks)	89,307	102,809	128,124
Potatoes	(Sacks)	220,961	215,651	155,106

4a. CANADIAN POTATO IMPORTS

The Baltimore Sun of February 25 says: "The enactment of a modern version of 'carrying coals to Newcastle' came to an end yesterday with the arrival in Baltimore of the steamship Skagatind. The Skagatind was carrying potatoes to Maryland, and that in the face of the potato-producing reputation of the Eastern Shore. In order to bring the potatoes into this country the importers were forced to scale a tariff wall which in this case amounted to 75 cents for each hundred pounds. Solace for Eastern Shore farmers was to be found, however, in the fact that the potatoes, unlike the Italian tomatoes which aroused opposition last year, were strictly of the Nordic variety, claiming Nova Scotia and the nearby Prince Edward Island as their country of origin. The Skagatind carried 9,350 bags of these Canadian potatoes in her hold when she arrived. They were consigned to the local representatives of a chain-store concern. Before docking here the ship discharged 21,000 bags of potatoes and 15,000 bags of turnips at New York. Local shipping men said yesterday that the shipment was the first of its kind made to Baltimore for many years. They attributed the importation to a shortage in the local crops due to the drought."

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. MAINE POTATO SITUATION SLIGHTLY STRONGER

W. D. Hull sent the following report from Presque Isle under date of February 23:-

"The Maine potato situation strengthened slightly during the past week. The firmer feeling, which was beginning to develop at the close of the previous week, carried over and, with lighter shipments, the market assumed rather a firm tendency. There was no advance in f.o.b. prices, sales being made on the basis of $1.30 per 100 pounds sacked.

"Mild weather throughout the week did not bring any increase in haulings by the growers. In fact, a firmer tendency in the local market caused growers to curtail haulings to such an extent that some shippers, who were unwilling to load their own stock, were forced to raise their street price a nickel in order to get potatoes to load. The street price ranged from $1.75 to $1.85, with more potatoes bring bought at $1.80 and $1.85 on Friday and Saturday than earlier in the week. Several dealers, who have a special outlet for extra-nice stock and always pay top prices for the best, paid $1.90 and it was rumored on Saturday that they would pay $2 per barrel on Monday of the current week.

"Wire-inquiry on table stock was rather light all the week, but inquiry on seed stock continued brisk until Friday and Saturday, when there was a slight falling-off in the inquiry for seed potatoes. Brokers reported many wires exchanged with buyers in the city markets in unsuccessful attempts to raise the f.o.b. prices. Many offers which the brokers received were low, and it required the exchange of several wires before the city dealer was convinced that he could not buy for less than the prevailing price of $1.30 f.o.b.

"Shipments the past week will fall short of those for the preceding week. The reduction will be chiefly in table stock, for shipments of both certified and selected seed will closely approximate those of the preceding week. Distribution of table stock has been very good and this has helped keep the shippers in an optimistic frame of mind.

"Prices of certified Cobblers strengthened 25¢ to 40¢ per 11-peck sack during the past week, under an active demand and a limited supply. The majority of the sales were around $3.25 f.o.b. for 11-peck sacks, with some as high as $3.50. Selected Cobblers sold from $1.90 to $2.25 per 11-peck sack, with most sales around $2. Certified Green Mountains moved rather slowly at $2.75-$3 for 11-peck sacks. Shippers do not expect much call for Mountains until March."

2b. CROP NOTES FROM COLORADO

A letter of February 21 from Bryce Morris, at the Denver office, gives the following report on Colorado potatoes and onions:-

"There seems to have been a falling-off in demand for Brown Beauty potatoes the past week and prices declined slightly to the lowest prices of this year. Farmers were paid 70¢-75¢ per cwt. for No. 1 Beautys, with good Standards mostly at 70¢. Red McClures held fairly steady with a moderate demand at 85¢-90¢ per cwt. for No. 1 stock and 80¢ on Standards.

(continued over)

As usual, there is considerable difference of opinion concerning the supplies remaining on hand, but I believe there is no question but that the final movement from the San Luis Valley will equal or exceed 10,000 cars. Low prices have tended to increase the feeding of poor-quality potatoes and have increased neglect of good potatoes.

"The northern Colorado potato section has been shipping moderately. Prices have been steady to firm to growers in the Greeley district, with best Standard Rurals at 60¢ and a few at 65¢. No. 2's brought 50¢-55¢, with the bulk at 55¢. Dealers' carlot sales have ranged from 75¢ to 80¢. According to some dealers, only half of the northern Colorado potatoes have been shipped to date, but it is quite doubtful now whether this section will clean-up all potatoes on hand unless a better demand materializes later. Probably 5,500 cars will be the limit of the 1930-31 movement.

"On the Western Slope, potato shipments have continued relatively light. It appears that only one-half of the present crop has been shipped to date. Sales of No. 1 Carbondale Russets were reported at 60¢-65¢ cash to growers, while Russet Rurals were bringing 45¢-50¢ on No. 1 even-weight sacks. Occasional lots of Rurals in second-hand sacks sold as low as 40¢ for U. S. No. 1 grade.

"The onion movement from the Arkansas Valley has continued light. It is probable that 150 cars remain in storage, but it is doubtful whether this many will be shipped. Very few of the shipments now going out are of No. 1 grade. Most cars have rolled for delivered sales, with shipments so light that an f.o.b. market was difficult to quote. Occasional sales of two-inch Valencias in 100-pound sacks were reported at 60¢-65¢ per cwt. Large Valencias in crates brought $1-$1.10 on 50's and around 70¢-80¢ on 72's."

3b. TEXAS CABBAGE PRICES AT LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1922

The very discouraging situation for cabbage growers in southern Texas is described by W. D. Googe in the following letter of February 22:-

"Prices for cabbage in the lower Rio Grande Valley last week reached the lowest mark reported since 1922. Growers have received from $3 to $5 per ton for their haulings delivered at car-doors, with the bulk of the cabbage going at $3. At these prices, shippers are taking only U. S. No. 1 medium stock, the large, small and off-grade cabbage being unmercifully culled back. Shipments for the week have averaged about 80 cars daily. Probably another 25 daily have gone in cars of mixed vegetables. With a large crop on hand, it is estimated that, under the present conditions, 75 to 100 cars each day are going to waste in the fields or being disced-under, preparatory to planting some other crop. Carlot prices have ranged from $7 to $9 per ton f.o.b. usual terms, and from $5 to $7 cash-track. To add to the discouragement of local growers and shippers, the Corpus Christi and Robstown sections have begun shipping in a light way and expect to increase their loadings materially during the coming week. That district has an advantage of about $2 per ton over the Valley in cheaper freight rates to eastern points.

"Prices for root crops have likewise declined to new low levels. Carrots are being sold on wire-orders at $1.10-$1.20 per lettuce crate, and beets a nickel or a dime less. These prices are for the best packs, while

some fair to ordinary packs have been sold as low as 90¢ and $1. Turnips are plentiful at about the same prices as beets. Spinach fluctuated between 35¢ and 50¢ a bushel basket.

"Almost ideal growing weather has prevailed during the last week. There has been a fair amount of sunshine, and temperatures have ranged from 55° to 75°. Potatoes and beans are reported to have shown excellent growth. Tomato plants, up before the January rains, have begun to show renewed vitality, while later plantings appear vigorous and about as large as the earlier crop."

4b. FLORIDA CELERY MOVEMENT HEAVIER AND QUALITY BETTER

J. B. Owens wrote as follows from Sanford in a letter of February 23:-

"Warm weather during the past week has been ideal for the growth of celery. Fields that have been somewhat delayed are now showing-up fine, and it is expected that shipments for the week from this district will increase about 100 cars over those of last week. The quality of the stock is also improving, with possibly 40% of the shipments being U. S. No. 1 quality.

"While the demand has continued good and prices have generally held steady, the general situation does not seem as healthy as it has been in the past. The movement into consumption in terminal markets at the present prices appears to be slowing-up, and it is expected that the f.o.b. prices will be slightly lower before the end of the week.

"The f.o.b. prices have held practically unchanged for the past two weeks, with a slight daily fluctuation on certain sizes and on some extra-fine quality. The general tendency now is to discount 3 dozen's, while the market on 10 dozen's is stronger, due to the decreasing percentage of small sizes and the improvement in quality."

5b. VERY LIGHT MOVEMENT OF MICHIGAN CROPS

R. E. Keller submitted the following report from Grand Rapids on February 21:-

"The demand for Michigan onions during the past seven days has been very light. Total shipments have been a little less, but this has been occasioned mostly by the poor demand. Prices have remained quite steady. Carlot sales on U. S. No. 1 Yellows, f.o.b. western Michigan points, have ranged mostly 30¢-35¢ for 50-pound sacks, and 60¢-65¢ for 100-pound sacks. Shipments to date are about 73% heavier than movement to the same time last year.

"The potato movement continued light, with practically all of the stock being billed to Michigan points. This State's movement has at no time during the season been large enough to begin to supply Detroit. For a while, Maine stock was the major source of supply of that city, and right now Wisconsin stock is predominating. Michigan's potato shipments to date total 1,408 cars, as against 3,003 cars a year ago."

ABOUT 45 CARLOADS OF BULK GRAPEFRUIT from Florida have been unloaded in the market territory of Minneapolis and St. Paul during the past 30 days, according to a report from the Minneapolis office. This bears on Par. 9b in this issue of the D.L.

6b. VARIABLE CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

V. H. Nicholson submitted the following report in a letter dated February 21 at Miami, Florida:-

"Weather conditions in southern Florida have not been so favorable as last week, but shipments of tomatoes remained in about the same volume. Quality of most shipments has been rather ordinary, although there have been a few more cars of fairly-good-quality stock shipped this past week. It was reported that the West Coast of Mexico had a heavy rain about a week ago, and the demand for Florida tomatoes has been fairly active, with considerable trading done on a cash-track basis.

"Prices have varied widely, according to the quality of the stock. However, most of the cash-track sales have been at prices ranging $2.75-$3.75 for Fancy-count in six-basket crates. One car of good quality, loaded north of Miami, was reported sold at $5 cash-track, but there has been very little stock that would command that figure. Several cars of very-ordinary-quality stock have been sold on a usual terms basis at $2.25-$2.50 for Fancy count. A few cars of lugs sold at prices ranging $2.25-$2.50 for the 6x6 size and $1.75 for the 6x7 size. Most of the shipments of lugs have been sold on a cash-track basis.

"Carlot shipments of beans have increased slightly. Movement will probably exceed 70 cars this week, which would be the heaviest since December. Most of the beans are still coming from the East Coast section, but a few cars and several express lots have been shipped from around the Lake. If there are no frosts or other unfavorable weather conditions within the next few days, shipments from the Lake section should soon exceed those from around Pompano on the East Coast.

"Quality of the bean shipments during the last few days has been only fair, and the price at Pompano declined quite sharply Wednesday on account of the approaching holiday and the somewhat heavier shipments. Yesterday, most of the good Bountifuls brought $3.50-$4 at the express platform at Pompano, and Black Valentines $3.75-$4.25. The quality of Wax beans has been quite variable, but the best stock brought $3-$3.50 at Pompano yesterday.

"Shipments of peppers decreased materially this week, and with the lighter shipments prices reacted favorably. Growers have been getting $1.75-$2 for Fancy and 75¢-$1 for Choice stock at the platform at Pompano. These prices are not much higher than last week, but the tone of the market has improved, and a much larger percentage of the shipments has been sold. If the market continues to improve, shipments should be somewhat heavier next week."

7b. A SPECIAL REPORT ISSUED IN NEW YORK CITY

The following letter of February 12 came from E. R. Biddle, of the New York City office:-

"Recently I started delivering a special report to about 50 members of the trade. This report gives the shipments, the passings through Potomac Yard, Altoona, Hornell and Buffalo, together with the day's report of arrivals, unloads and cars on track. I have had many very nice comments on this report, especially the part which gives the local track-holdings. It is mimeographed and leaves the office shortly after 11 a.m. each day."

8b. WESTERN NEW YORK MARKET VERY QUIET

The following letter of February 25 came from R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office:-

"There has been very little change in the New York apple situation. Domestic demand seems to be for the lower grades of fruit. Exporters are still active, taking approximately 150 cars of the total movement of 446 for the week. The condition of apples in storage is variable; some scald and rot is showing up in some sections. Due to the season being advanced about 10 days or two weeks, the fruit now in storage is in about the same condition as that of March 15 last year.

"The demand for cabbage has been very slow and prices are barely holding steady. The total movement this season to February 23 had reached 11,207 cars, compared with 10,574 last season to the same date. Dealers are not buying very freely from the growers on account of the condition of the market. Some cars are rolling on consignment or for joint account.

"The potato market remains rather dull. Growers are receiving from 60¢ to 65¢ per bushel from the dealers at country loading points.

"Onions continue dull, with very little activity in the market. Carrots are in poor demand, shipments averaging around seven cars daily."

9b. BULK FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT BEING SHIPPED TO TWIN CITY MARKETS

Writing in a letter of February 19, R. M. Ferguson, of the Minneapolis office, gave the following interesting information on grapefruit from Florida:-

"For the past two years, receipts of Texas grapefruit have been gradually increasing and a corresponding drop has been noted in receipts of Florida grapefruit in the Twin City markets, especially the Duncan variety. Within the past month or so, however, several cars of Duncans from Florida have been received, loaded in bulk. Some of these have been straight cars of grapefruit and some have been mixed grapefruit and oranges. They found a very ready market here. The stock carried well, averaging around 3% decay. Some bruised stock, of course, has been in evidence, considerable of which could be eliminated by the use of some sort of ventilated covering for the floor-racks.

"This fruit has been costing around $2.50 per cwt. delivered, and is being sold mostly by the pound, although some sales are made by count. Four sizes have usually been shipped, 96's and 80's being put in one bin, and 64's and 70's in another. Where the larger sizes have been fairly uniform, a great portion is sold by count, as it has been found that 40 grapefruit of that size fairly-well fill a bushel basket, weighing very close to 40 pounds. Considerable fruit is also sold by weight, packed in cabbage crates, while out-of-town shipments are being made in western lettuce crates. It is believed by the trade that shipments will continue, as the bulk stock seems quite popular with the retail trade. All shipments so far have been carefully graded. The fruit is of good quality, and I understand a great part of it has been Brogdexed."

9½b. ONE HUNDRED COPIES OF ANNUAL UNLOAD SUMMARIES NEEDED

All market stations should please mail to the Washington office 100 copies of their annual unload summaries. Do not overlook this matter.

10b. MANY POTATOES OF POOR QUALITY IN MINNESOTA

R. M. Ferguson sent the following report from Minneapolis in a letter dated February 19:-

"The Minnesota table-stock potatoes are having a hard time to find a home. There has been some activity the last few weeks in seed stock, both certified and common seed, but dealers are finding it harder and harder to move the Round White table stock. They are fortunate in one respect in that during the early part of the season growers anticipated a rising market on table stock and would not sell for anything less than $1 per cwt., the result being that very few dealers here own any white stock, most of it being in the hands of the growers. The quality this year has been poor and in a great many sections, due to last season's long dry spell, the yield was very light.

"No one in the industry anticipates any bettermarket. Many dealers here, who ordinarily confine themselves quite strictly to Minnesota and North Dakota potatoes, are handling practically nothing but western stock. It is freely predicted that, unless something is done at once to produce better-quality potatoes in Minnesota, this State will pass out of the picture, as far as potato-raising is concerned. As you probably know, no real effort has ever been made to have growers grade their stock carefully and try to put up U. S. No. 1 quality. In fact, certified seed many times fails to come even near meeting the requirements for U. S. No. 1, though State certification indicates there will not be to exceed 3% defects of U.S. No. 1."

11b. OREGON CROP CONDITIONS

In a letter of February 18 from Portland, J. D. Hamilton included the following comments on Oregon crops:-

"Roseburg cauliflower production will total about 100 cars, which is about equal to last year's production. Four or five shippers and 'associations' are scrambling for their share of the shipments, which will start in about two weeks. Meanwhile, all factors interested in the deal are occupied in their customary charitable habit of praying that 'something will happen to the California crop, to destroy it, and give Oregon a profit.' Due to higher production-costs here, it is only in seasons of light California production that the Oregon crop returns a profit.

"Potatoes and onions continue dull. No. 1 yellow onions and No. 2 Burbank and Netted Gem potatoes are netting growers about 20¢ per cwt., after deducting grading, sacking, and hauling costs.

"The past winter has been vastly different from the weather of a year ago. No snow at all, and freezing-temperatures just two mornings. Local vegetables have been plentiful all winter, with almost disastrous results to carlot distributors specializing in southern products. Early spring peas are several inches high, and spring cabbage is growing nicely. Portland shows a rainfall deficiency of 42 inches in the last 30 months. Fields are dusty now, instead of muddy as usual. Soil is well saturated though, as most of the excess rainfall just runs off anyway.

"There is a great abundance of food and other commodities here, due to last year's bounteous production; but a scarcity of ready money."

12b. A "TWELVE-CITIES TRACK" REPORT

A recent addition to the central circuit of the leased wire is a "Twelve Cities Track" report, giving total track-holdings of certain commodities in the 12 principal eastern and midwestern markets. This information has been prepared to meet numerous requests for this type of information. In the belief that it will prove to be of general interest, it will be sent to all offices on the leased wire, starting March 3, and wherever possible it should be published in the daily reports.

The value of such figures will be mostly to indicate the day-to-day variations of market supplies, and therefore they should be carried in a tabulation, showing the comparative totals of previous days. The greater the period covered by such tabulations, the greater will be their value, but, where space does not permit an extensive list, it is suggested that at least three days' figures be carried, - those of the current day, the preceding day, and the same day of the previous week. Ordinarily, track-holdings accumulate at the first of each week and decrease until the following week-end. Therefore a comparison of Tuesday and Monday of this week with Saturday of last week would not be as valuable as a comparison of Tuesday, Monday, and Tuesday of last week. A suggested arrangement is as follows:

Combined Track-Holdings in Twelve Leading Markets

	Potatoes	Cabbage	Onions	Lettuce	Celery	Spinach	Tomatoes
Mar. 3, Tuesday:	1147	311	142	380	168	297	54
" 2, Monday :	1279	374	160	397	199	273	57
Feb.24, Tuesday:	1476	354	123	389	200	226	68
" 23, Monday :	1523	335	172	466	171	244	60

The cities included in this list are Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Washington. The combined totals have recently been wired-out between 1:00 and 1:30, E.S.T. Offices which release their bulletins before the current day's figures are received might consider the advisability of carrying the tabulation one day late, for at least a sufficient length of time to determine the trade reaction. We would appreciate hearing from all offices as to any comments received, in order to determine whether or not this is a worth-while addition to our service and one which should be continued and expanded.

To avoid duplication, the "EASTERN TRACK" report on potatoes, which has been wired to western offices, will be discontinued after March 5. Those offices which have been using this report can continue their present tabulations from the "Twelve Cities Track" report, by noting the new list of cities included.

13b. HEAVY LOSS OF LETTUCE FROM RAINS IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

The following letter of February 21, from A. E. Prugh at Brawley, tells of the rain-damage to lettuce in that section:-

"The heavy rain last week practically stopped movement of lettuce on the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th. Shipments of Thursday, February 12, were packed from stock in the sheds, hauled the day before. The market on rollers took a sharp advance to $2.75 one day, but by Monday, the 16th, shippers

went into the muddy fields and, at heavy expense, tried to get some lettuce on the market at the higher prices. Mules taken into the fields were almost stuck in the mud, and Mexican laborers had to carry some of the lettuce out in field crates. Then caterpillar tractors would pull the wagons or trucks up the mud roads to the pavement. With 189 cars out the 17th, mostly of poor quality after the rain, the price dropped rapidly to $1.25-$1.40, but yesterday (the 20th) the cash-track market was somewhat stabilized at $1.35-$1.65. An idea of the deterioration in quality can be had from the fact that during the last week in January about 80% of inspected cars graded U. S. No. 1 and on February 20 only two cars out of 68 made this grade. With new fields coming on next week, better quality is expected.

"It appears that from 10,000 to 15,000 acres (of the total 41,000 acres for this season) were ruined on account of rainy weather and bursting of heads. Estimates vary on the quantity yet to move. Yields may be heavier on the late stock. With about 7,000 cars out by the 19th, probably only 4,000 more will move, but the lettuce deal has grown to be so big in the Valley that they always seem to be able to get lettuce if the price is right. A fairly-good market is expected the balance of the season, but no high prices on account of business conditions.

"The rain extended also to the Phoenix district of Arizona, and reports indicate that the spring deal there may not get under way until March 20 or 25. This would give Imperial Valley a chance to clean up, as many fields of very late lettuce will be brought on earlier by the recent rain.

"The first car of asparagus moved out of the Valley yesterday, February 20. They try here to get the first car out ahead of the northern district, but in recent seasons have failed to do so.

"Wednesday, the 18th, two cars of peas moved out of the Valley. They expected to load a car the previous week, but rain held them up. The rain is expected to improve the quality and yield of peas, unless mildew appears.

"Carrot shipments are increasing now, but the rain may cause considerable loss, on account of the stock growing too large."

14b. CHANGING FOOD HABITS

An editorial in The Southern Planter for February 1 says: "The changing food habits of the American people during the last decade are worth the consideration of the trucker and others who make a business of producing food. During the past 40 years the per capita consumption of wheat and corn has been greatly reduced, while the consumption of dairy products and sugar has increasedsteadily. During the last seven years the amount of green food consumed has doubled, while that of stored root vegetables has declined proportionately. Shipments of carrots increased from 1,630 cars in 1920 to 12,028 in 1929, spinach from 3,089 to 10,317, strawberries from 7,207 to 18,732, and lettuce from 13,788 to 53,234. Perhaps the most outstanding cause for this great change is the introduction of machinery and labor-saving devices, which reduce the need of such large quantities of muscle-building food. A second reason is the increasing appreciation of the value of greens in the diet. Improvement in grading, handling and packing goods to make an appeal to the eye of even the casual observer also bears a part of the responsibility. Improved transportation facilities, making it possible to ship the most perishable fruits and vegetables across the continent in perfect condition, is another important factor in the case."

WENDELL CALHOUN, Marketing Specialist

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	May 1
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 15
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House	894	C. D. Schoolcraft	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Mar. 28
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	May 15
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Mar. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 1
			Tomatoes	Jan. 16	May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach	Jan. 5	Feb. 28
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 16	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 16	May 15
			Onions	Mar. 23	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
BRAWLEY, CALIF.,** Planters' Hotel Bldg.	933	A. E. Prugh L. T. Kirby	Lettuce	Jan. 5	Mar. 21
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

B. E. Surry in Chicago. W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. REVISED "F.P.I.-8" LIST SENT TO CITY OFFICES

There are 42 city or receiving-point inspection offices of the Food Products Inspection Service. These are listed on the long sheet, which is designated as "F.P.I.-8" and which describes briefly the functions and operations of the service. This form or list has been revised under date of February 11, 1931, and copies of the revised sheet were sent with last week's D.L. to all these city offices. Any other inspectors, desiring a copy of the revised list, can obtain one or more from the Washington office.

2c. FLORIDA SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS

O. G. Strauss, Supervising Inspector in Florida, submitted the following report of inspections at shipping points in that State for the period February 1-15:-

	FRUITS				
	G'fruit	Oranges	Tangerines	Mixed	Total
Fruit inspections Feb. 1-15:	11	59	2	18	90
" " to Jan. 31:	424	496	37	303	1260
" " through Feb. 15:	435	555	39	321	1350

	VEGETABLES										
	Beets	Cab-bage	Car-rots	Cel-ery	Cukes	Letc.	Pep-pers	Stbr.	Toms.	Mxd.	Total
Vegs. Feb. 1-15:	1	-	1	378	-	2	1	22	-	-	405
" to Jan.31:	-	2	-	467	15	-	60	8	38	21	611
Through Feb. 15:	1	2	1	845	15	2	61	30	38	21	1016

Total fruit and vegetable inspections Feb. 1-15: 495

Season totals through February 15:					
Year:-	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
Cars:-	2366	1698	2249	1451	2431

In a letter dated February 16, Mr. Strauss sent the following crop notes relating to Florida vegetables and berries:-

"The weather this season has been the worst I have ever seen on vegetables. All the operators using inspection are still using it, but shipments have been cut down materially by excessive rains and cold. Quality has also been lowered. On celery, I don't believe 10% of our inspections show No. 1 grade. Strawberries were clearly out until the last few days, and the crop has been so delayed that shipments will be lighter than for a number of years. Tomatoes on the East Coast have been hurt by cold and wind, as well as by too much rainfall, and shipments will not be heavy until next month."

THE NEW OFFICE BUILDING for the Dept. of Agriculture in Washington, just south of the Main Building, is being rapidly erected. All the steel framework is completed and the stone and brick work is going forward.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 1
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 1	Apr. 1
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Sweet-potatoes	Sept. 1	Mar. 15
		Vegetables	Nov. 5	Mar. 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas	Citrus	Oct. 1	Mar. 15
		Vegetables	Nov. 20	Mar. 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.	Fruits & vegetables	Oct. 27	Apr. 1
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1

REPORTS regarding Ohio shipping-point inspections can be obtained by addressing M. W. Baker, at our Columbus office.

Indiana and Michigan shipping-point inspection reports can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Court House, Warsaw, Indiana.

The next two items have been taken from California "Inspectors' Notes," published at Sacramento on February 20;-

3c. HEAVY RAINS RETARD IMPERIAL VALLEY SHIPMENTS

Heavy rains last week (Feb. 8-14) in the Imperial Valley played havoc with the quality of the lettuce, and decidedly reduced the shipments and inspections there. The personnel has been reduced to 31 men, and additional reductions will take place from now on.

4c. SANTA MARIA INSPECTIONS HEAVY

Inspections in the Santa Maria district of California the past week have shown a considerable increase, as the cauliflower shipments have gotten under way. The personnel consists of eight men including Henry Drashner, who is in charge of the district.

5c. CROP NOTES FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

George E. Prince, Supervising Inspector at Aiken, S.C., wrote as follows in a letter of February 20:-

"I have just visited the Charleston potato district and find that both cabbage and potatoes are in excellent shape. The acreage of both crops is about the same as last year, and the tonnage contracted for inspection will be about the same as in 1930. It is probable that some of the independent growers and shippers will also desire inspection this season. A considerable quantity of asparagus will be inspected this spring."

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. SUMMARY OF OPINIONS BY THE SOLICITOR UNDER THE P.A.C. ACT

With this D.L., all technical employees of the Fruit and Vegetable Division and all cooperative inspectors will receive copies of a seven-paged pamphlet, entitled: "Summary of Opinions Rendered by the Solicitor of the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930." This is dated February 24, and should be kept carefully for future reference, along with the P.A.C. Memorandum to Field Men, issued on February 10.

2e. COPIES OF COMMISSION MERCHANTS LICENSES AVAILABLE

Copies of licenses issued under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act of 1930 may be obtained, upon request and upon payment of a fee of $1 for each copy, from the United States Department of Agriculture, according to an amendment to rules and regulations for carrying out the provisions of the Act. It is also provided that "any person desiring to file a claim for damages under the provisions of sections 5 and 6 (a) of the Act may file a complaint with the Chief of Bureau (Bureau of Agricultural Economics) at any time within nine months after the cause of action accrues."

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

OFFICE NOTES:

We regret to report that R. M. Ferguson, inspector in Minneapolis, was injured by the shifting of cars, while about his inspection work, and he will have to be off duty for several days. W. J. Bertush, of the Chicago staff, has been sent to Minneapolis to handle the work during Mr. Ferguson's absence.

F. S. Kinsey will this week finish his supervision of inspections in Virginia, but will remain in the Winchester district a few more days to inspect some cold-storage apples intended for export. During the latter part of next week, he will proceed to the New York City office, where he will be stationed for a considerable length of time.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 10 March 6, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. CHANGES INCIDENT TO P.A.C. WORK

The following list of changes in assignment and location must be regarded as partially tentative, because some of the men cannot move immediately and unforeseen circumstances may force changes of plan in one or two cases. Usually personnel actions are not recorded in the Division Letter until they are actually consummated, but the expansion of P.A.C. work and the establishment of several new inspection offices have been anticipated for several months and we feel that the field force should know our plans as rapidly as they are developed into definite programs.

W. H. Steinbauer and W. G. Lensen are being transferred from the Boston inspection office and the Detroit market-news office respectively to Associate Marketing Specialist positions in the administration of the P.A.C. work, with headquarters in Washington. W. F. Plummer, of New Haven, is succeeding Mr. Steinbauer in Boston, and R. W. Tyson is expected to succeed Mr. Plummer in New Haven.

A new inspection office is being opened at Des Moines. R. C. Lindstrom will be transferred from Chicago to that point. The new inspection office to be opened at Tulsa will be under the charge of R. B. Landrum, who will be transferred from New York. An inspection office is to be opened at Dallas and this assignment has been offered to A. H. Polster, now in Cincinnati. It is expected that the opening of this office will make it possible for M. C. Gregory, of Fort Worth, to devote part of his time to P.A.C. work, when required. The inspection office to be established at Birmingham is being tentatively offered to W. W. Anderson, of the New York staff, provided his health permits his early return to regular duty. It is planned to reopen Louisville as a joint P.A.C. and inspection office, and a request has been started for the reinstatement of T. C. Curry, formerly in charge of our market-news and inspection work in Atlanta, to take charge at Louisville, probably reporting for duty soon after the 15th of March. A few of these changes necessarily involve others, some of which may be decided by the time this Division Letter is received. Absence of Mr. Boree in the South is delaying final decision on Mr. Lensen's successor in Detroit.

WELLA A. SHERMAN

2a. PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHANGE OF HOURS IN WASHINGTON

As a result of the recent Act of Congress, granting Government employees a half-holiday on Saturday throughout the year, the Washington office will close at 1 P.M. each Saturday, and no wires requiring prompt answer should be sent to Washington after that hour.

3a. BILLS OF LADING

Attention is called to the following memorandum, just received from the Office of the Secretary:-

In view of the refusal in some instances of common carriers to accept for transportation Department material under the standard Government bill of lading form No. 1058, G.A.O., General Regulations No. 69, without the cancellation therefrom of section 7 of "Conditions" under "General conditions and instructions" on the reverse of the form, which section reads: "In case of loss, damage, or shrinkage in transit, the rules and conditions governing commercial shipments shall not apply as to period within which notice thereof should be given carriers or to period within which claims therefor shall be made or suit instituted," officers and employees of the Department by whom bills of lading are executed on behalf of the Department should, in case of such specific refusal, cancel the section in question and annex thereto and sign with official title a marginal note, "Cancelled prior to execution under authority of the Secretary of Agriculture." The deletion of the section should be confined to the cases where the carrier makes this action a condition precedent to the transportation of the material.

4a. SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES IN OPEN MARKET

The attention of all branch offices is called to the following item, which appeared in The B.A.E. News of February 24, 1931, page 3:

"The Bureau Stock List has been revised recently and a copy should be in every office. This list covers all supplies in general use. Supplies required by an office and not included in the Stock List should be requisitioned in the usual way with the item number left blank. If the requisition is approved, the supplies ordinarily will be procured in Washington from the contractor under the General Schedule of Supplies and shipped to the field office.

"No purchase of supplies should be made locally by a field office unless such purchase has been specifically authorized. Exception is made in case of an absolute emergency, provided the necessity for such emergency-purchase is fully explained when voucher is transmitted. On account of the restricted supply of yearly contract schedules now furnished the Bureau, it is not possible to supply field offices with copies."

The Bureau Stock List referred to is the revision of September 1, 1930.

5a. PRODUCTION AND CARRY-OVER OF CONTAINERS

A compilation has just been issued in mimeographed form on the "Production and Carry-Over of Fruit and Vegetable Containers for the Year 1930." This was prepared by Mrs. Gladys Burrows of L. C. Carey's section in Washington. Copies of this valuable 20-paged pamphlet can be obtained on request, directly from Mr. Carey.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. BLIGHT AFFECTING POTATO CROP IN RIO GRANDE VALLEY

The serious conditions which have developed in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas are described in the following letter of March 1 from W. D. Googe, at Brownsville:-

"Potato growers in the lower Rio Grande Valley were upset last Monday, when it was reported that late blight was making its appearance for the first time in this territory. On Tuesday it was evident that some fields, particularly the more-advanced, were about finished, so far as this year's crop is concerned. The demand for spraying and dusting-materials quickly depleted the small stocks on hand, and the chemical mixing-plants were working day and night. Fairly cool nights, partly cloudy days, and heavy fogs in early morning were reported favorable to the rapid spread of blight. Some larger growers employed airplanes to dust their fields. By the end of the week, the potato sections had been about covered. Saturday brought mostly sunshine and other conditions favorable to halting the disease; last night was rainy, and today has been featured by continuous rain which at times amounts to a torrential downpour.

"It was estimated that the yield this season will be cut from 20% to 40% in the potato crop as a whole. Some fields will show a total loss. A few growers have reported blight as attacking their beans and tomatoes. Unless the Valley gets more-favorable weather within a few days, damage will continue to increase. Growers, shippers and bankers are not cheerful over the outlook.

"The cabbage situation remains about unchanged, except that a better wire-inquiry has been reported during the last two days. The sections around Robstown and Corpus Christi have begun shipping, and, if the market were favorable, would probably ship 40 to 50 cars daily. It is believed that the Valley could ship 100 cars or more daily, if prices justified, and it is reported that Louisiana and Alabama could furnish a considerable volume. It is hoped that, with supplies of storage cabbage cleaning-up and with the advent of spring when the employment situation in northern States becomes better, the consumption of southern cabbage will increase.

"Beets and carrots continue to be shipped in moderate volume, at about the same prices as prevailed a week ago. The demand for spinach is fair, but, at prices being paid in the Winter Garden section, Valley shippers load their spinach almost entirely in mixed cars. In this manner they are able to realize 10¢-15¢ per bushel more than they can in straight cars."

2b. MICHIGAN F.O.B. MARKETS VERY QUIET

R. E. Keller sent the following report from Grand Rapids on February 28:-

"With probably over 1,200 cars yet in storage, Michigan has the largest quantity of onions on hand of any of the late States. It is likely that not all of the onions will be shipped, on account of market conditions: yet, if the remaining stock is to move, shipments must pick-up. The f.o.b.

(continued over)

carlot prices have held fairly steady all week, the market on U. S. No. 1 Yellows in 100-pound sacks ruling between 57½¢ and 70¢, with 50-pound sacks between 30¢ and 35¢.

"The potato situation is very quiet, with both demand and offerings continuing light. The f.o.b. market remained about steady. Aside from a few cars of seed, distribution was mostly to Michigan points."

3b. A BLIZZARD IN EASTERN COLORADO

The following letter of February 28, from Bryce Morris at Denver, tells of weather conditions and of crops and markets in Colorado:-

"Eastern Colorado was experiencing a considerable blizzard on Saturday morning, with snow five to six inches deep from Denver to Greeley before noon, and snow still falling.

"San Luis Valley potato shipments have continued fairly liberal. The market tendency has been slightly lower this week, with No. 1 Brown Beautys at 65¢-70¢, mostly 70¢, cash track to growers. Demand for McClures was particularly slow, following the lower prices in Chicago for best quality stock, and dealers generally were paying 85¢ for No. 1's. In the Greeley district, prices to growers have declined slightly, with dealers generally paying 55¢ per cwt. for Standard Grade Rurals and No. 2's at 50¢.

"Shipments of potatoes from the Western Slope have been moderate. Dealers report buying cars from the farmers at 45¢ on No. 1 Rurals and 60¢ on No. 1 Russet Burbanks. It is interesting to note that no Idaho potatoes have been unloaded in Denver for the past 90 days, due to the lower price of Western Slope Russets which shutout Idaho competition. The quality of potatoes from the Carbondale district this year is good.

"Onion shipments have been light from the Arkansas Valley, with the season rapidly drawing to a close. Shipments total 1,186 cars. Last season at this time 2,077 cars had been shipped, while the final movement was 2,557 cars. It is probable that the 1930 crop movement will total approximately 1,250 cars. On account of light shipments, too few sales were reported to quote a consistent market, with most cars rolling for delivered sales. Onion shipments from the Western Slope have been very light, with practically no demand. The seasonal movement is 519 cars, compared with 1,148 last year. Dealers were reported paying 20¢ per cwt. for bulk No. 1 Danvers, while usual-terms sales were made around 40¢ per cwt. on 1½-inch minimum stock and 45¢-50¢ on 2-inch minimum."

4b. ADDITIONAL MARKETING SUMMARIES ISSUED

Three additional mimeographed summaries have recently been issued:-

"Marketing Louisiana Strawberries, 1930 Season," by J. P. Klein.
"Marketing Arizona Spring Lettuce, 1930 Season," by R. H. Lamb.
"Marketing the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas Potato Crop, 1930 Season," by W. D. Googe.

ALL MARKET REPORTS from branch offices should be speeded-up as much as possible on Saturday mornings, because of the half-holidays in Washington the year round. Cooperation of market reporters in this respect will be greatly appreciated by all in Washington office.

5b. SIZE AND YIELD OF FLORIDA CELERY INCREASING

J. B. Owens reported as follows on March 2 from Sanford, Florida:-

"The warm weather of the past week has been very favorable for growth of celery, and there has been a decided increase in the general size of the stalks, making the percentage of 3 and 4 dozens rather heavy. There was a light rain on Saturday, with a more general rain on Monday, which stopped practically all operations for the day. It is questionable, at this time, just what effect these rains will have on the crop, other than cause a further increase in the size of the stalks. The average yield for the district has increased to better than 600 crates to the acre, with a possibility of a further increase during the coming week.

"Shipments from this district averaged approximately 60 cars a day for the past week, compared with an average of 100 cars daily during the corresponding period last year. The probable movement for this week will be about the same as last week, provided operations are not hindered too much by the rainy weather. General quality of the stock now being shipped is very good. The improvement in the bleach and length of the stalks are in general responsible for this. There have been some signs of pink rot in the fields, but hardly enough to be any factor at this time.

"The heavy percentage of 3 and 4 dozens has slowed-up the demand for these sizes, with a consequent decline in prices. The 10-inch crates of 3 dozen's in the rough are now selling at $2, and 4 dozen's at $2-$2.25, with the possibility that prices on these sizes will decline further during the week. The demand for 6 to 10 dozen's has been very good, and prices have held steady on these sizes at $2-$2.50 per crate."

6b. WISCONSIN POTATOES DOWN TO ONE DOLLAR F.O.B.

C. D. Schoolcraft sent the following letter from Waupaca on February 27:-

"The Wisconsin potato market has developed further weakness during the past few days, with the result that the carlot price has dropped from a level of $1.10-$1.15 late last week to a general price of $1 per cwt. at the present time. It is only the exceptional car that is able to command a higher price. This is the lowest level to which the Wisconsin prices have dropped this season. This was largely due to a steady decline in the market for Wisconsin potatoes in Chicago, where the price has dropped 5¢-15¢ during the past week. The Chicago market this morning was $1.20-$1.25 for the average-run Wisconsin Round Whites, which hardly justifies an f.o.b. price of $1 here. However, the fact that Maine prices are holding-up has given Wisconsin an opportunity to go a little farther east and gain a little wider distribution the past few days.

"The price to farmers has fallen to a level of 70¢ per cwt. bulk, at most of the central Wisconsin points. Despite this decline, haulings have been fair all this week. Exceptional weather, the kind that Florida and California advertise, has had much to do with the haulings holding-up, despite the price declines. I do not believe that the farmers in general have given up hope for the future of this year's market, but I can scarcely say so much for the shippers."

7b. GREEN-PEA ACREAGE INCREASING

Plantings of green peas have been greatly increased during recent years, especially in the West. Last year nearly 7,300 cars of peas were shipped from all producing sections, compared with 2,700 cars in 1925.

8b. CROP AND MARKET CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

V. H. Nicholson sent the following report from Miami under date of February 28:-

"Shipments of southern Florida vegetables are only slightly heavier than last week. The rain on Tuesday and cooler weather on Thursday retarded the movement of beans and tomatoes, but had little effect on the movement of peppers. A high wind in the Lake Okeechobee area about the middle of the week is reported to have damaged the crop of beans in that locality.

"The prices of good beans at Pompano this week have held fairly steady at mostly $4-$4.50 for Bountifuls, with Black Valentines at $3-$4.25, according to quality. Wax beans have sold at prices ranging $2.50-$3.25, with an occasional lot higher. Quality of most offerings of Bountifuls has been fairly good, but the quality of both Black Valentines and Wax has been rather variable.

"Shipments are expected to increase, as the acreage around Lake Okeechobee is ready for harvest. If favorable weather prevails, shipments should increase materially during March. While it is getting late for a severe frost in most Florida sections, the worst one of last season came on March 4 and 5, and there is still a possibility that one may yet occur this season.

"Quality of the tomato shipments remains rather ordinary, but there has been a slight improvement this week. Shipments are expected to increase next week, if the weather continues favorable. The present prospects indicate a lighter movement during March than last season, with the peak movement during the first week of April and a moderate movement during April and into May. The cool, rainy weather during December and January interfered with the planting of the crop and, as a consequence, there has been a greater proportion of late plantings.

"Prices of tomatoes have varied as widely as the quality. Most of the second-grade marks have sold around $2.50 for Fancy count in six-basket crates on a usual-terms basis. The better quality stock has been sold on a cash-track basis at prices ranging $2.75-$3.75 for Fancy count, and one car was reported sold at $4 for Fancy count. Lugs have ranged $2.25-$2.65 for the 6x6 size and $1.75-$2 for the 6x7 size on a cash basis.

"The market for peppers has held fairly well this week, with most sales of Fancy at $2, although there have been a few sales of best quality at $2.25. Choice have been selling at a discount of about $1 from the prices for Fancy. Growers have been picking in alternate weeks, and that accounts for the variation in shipments. Providing growers adhere to this practice, shipments should be somewhat lighter next week."

9b. EXPORTS OF AMERICAN APPLES AND PEARS IN BUSHEL BASKETS

On January 22 a special two-paged mimeographed report was issued by the Foreign Service Division of our Bureau under the designation of F.S.:A-342 and the title of: "Shipment of American Apples and Pears in Bushel Baskets." This is based on a report of F. A. Motz, representative of this Bureau in London. He discusses the greatly-increased use of bushel baskets for export shipments of fruit, and outlines the advantages and disadvantages of various kinds of baskets. The New England box for apples is also discussed. Copies of this report can be had directly from the Foreign Service Division in Washington.

10b. WASHINGTON POTATO SITUATION DISCOURAGING

T. R. Hall submitted the following report on Yakima Valley potatoes in a letter of February 26 from Seattle:-

"An approximate total of 2,250 cars of potatoes remains to be shipped from the Yakima and Kittitas districts, according to the results of a recent survey made by the Yakima County Farm Bureau. Some shippers assert that 5,000 cars could be assembled, if prices justified.

"The price situation presents a sharp contrast to conditions that prevailed a year ago, when the market was mounting steadily to the highest point of the season. This month the market has been in a very unsatisfactory condition. The price has been so low that strict U. S. No. 1 graded potatoes are considered the most economical from the consumers' standpoint and well-graded Washington Combination potatoes are eliminating any demand for the U. S. No. 2 grade and culls. A range of $12.50-$14 per ton for branded U. S. No. 1 and $10-$12 for Washington Combination grade represents the f.o.b. cash price at shipping points. It is reported that some buyers are going to the cellars and paying growers $6 per ton. The buyer is furnishing the labor and material, and grading-out all but strictly U. S. No. 1 stock.

"There are a few purchases of potatoes being made this month for cold-storages. These lots will be held for the late-spring and summer trade, possibly finding their way into the midwestern markets, to meet a limited demand that always prevails for old potatoes. Throughout the season, Oregon has been such an important factor in the San Francisco and northern California markets that Yakima growers are forced to find other outlets and, as a result, a wider distribution eastward is reported. Because of the unfavorable position Yakima has held this season, a large part of the 1930 crop may never be marketed through usual channels."

11b. MAINE POTATO MARKET FAIRLY FIRM

On March 2, W. D. Hull sent the following letter from Presque Isle:-

"The Maine potato market maintained a rather firm feeling during the greater part of last week. Unusually low shipments from other producing areas last Monday, accompanied with a better wire-inquiry on Tuesday, created a better feeling among the shippers, which lasted until Thursday.

"Haulings from farm storage, while only moderate, showed a gradual increase until Friday, when there was an abrupt falling-off in the offerings. An occasional load of very nice, large, bright stock brought $2 per barrel and, when this information was spread around among the growers, they assumed that the market was going to be higher and immediately reduced haulings and decided to wait for better prices. Thawing-weather made the roads soft and full of holes and undoubtedly had some influence in reducing haulings.

"Shipments from Maine last week were slightly over 1,500 cars, a reduction of more than 150 from the previous week. The reduction was due chiefly to small shipments of seed. Demand for seed was not quite so active as it had been. Shipments of certified seed were only about half as large as the previous week. Prices on all varieties were unchanged. Dealers report some inquiry on certified Cobblers, although the supply is about exhausted. This week will probably see an increased demand for certified Mountains for April shipment."

12b. RECENT NEWS FROM THE WESTERN NEW YORK TERRITORY.

R. L. Sutton wrote as follows from Rochester, in a letter of March 3:-

"The marketing of the late storage crop of Danish cabbage from the western and central New York territory is rapidly drawing to a close. Total outturn this season has filled 11,330 cars, or approximately 700 more than were shipped during the entire season of 1929-30. Although there remains an appreciable quantity still in storage, it is generally thought that not more than 250 cars will be shipped during the balance of the season, on account of the pronounced dullness of the market and the unpromising future. With the period of possible cold-weather-damage in Texas having passed and with the continued low prices existing in that State, it is hardly to be expected that, with the declining quality of storage-stock in western New York, there will be any degree of added strength in prices. Recent f.o.b. sales of stock loaded in 90-pound sacks ranged $10-$13 per ton. Occasional cars of bulk cabbage sold around $10-$11, with a few lower.

"Potatoes have held rather inactive, the volume of business being restricted to a few cars daily. Growers are not anxious to haul at the prevailing prices, and the dealers feel that they are paying the maximum for a market such as now exists. The producers are receiving 60¢-65¢ bulk per bushel. The distribution continues principally to Middle and South Atlantic points.

"The demand for onions continues slow. Dealers find it difficult to obtain buyers, even at the low prices prevailing. The midwestern States of Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio are disposing of their storage-holdings as fast as possible, the heavy volume moving thus reducing demand for individual sections. New York has shipped slightly over 3,600 cars, whereas Indiana and Michigan have moved in excess of 6,300 and 4,300 cars, respectively. F.o.b. prices at western Michigan points have averaged lower all season than those obtained in this territory. However, the Michigan stock is not quoted with such a large percentage of 2-inch onions as is the case in New York. Local operators are hoping for a rapid reduction in midwestern supplies, in order to obtain improvement in the market situation in western and central New York.

"The demand and trading for carrots continues very slow, with only occasional sales reported. Storage holdings are heavy. The outturn to date is 1,472 cars, almost 200 behind that of the corresponding period last season and 639 under the total movement of the 1929-30 season. The quantity remaining in storage has been estimated at numbers varying from 1,500 to 2,000 cars. It is a general opinion that a good portion of the supplies will never be shipped.

"Although good U. S. No. 1 quality apples are becoming rather scarce, the demand also is lagging. Very few cars of U. S. No. 1 Greenings are now being shipped, and the growers holding Baldwins are reluctant to sell at prices now being offered. Dealers at shipping-point cannot get more than $1.50 for U. S. No. 1 Baldwins in bushels. The movement for export has been dominant, although a heavy percentage was shipped on consignment. The quality generally is not attractive enough to induce exporters to put their money into fruit at shipping-point. The outturn for the State this season to date is approximately 13,500 cars, or already 4,000 in excess of the total movement of last season. Cars billed to the larger markets are, in the main, shipped on consignment or joint-account. F.o.b. sales on the lower grades ranged $1-$1.30 for Baldwins and 85¢-$1 on Greenings."

13b. PLAIN BAGS NOW PERMITTED FOR SHIPMENT OF IDAHO POTATOES

Interesting news regarding Idaho potatoes is contained in the following letter of February 27 from L. C. Tate, at Idaho Falls:-

"Idaho potato shipments now amount to about 19,500 cars, or slightly more than final figures for last season. It seems there are in the neighborhood of 10,000 cars yet to be shipped, and the probable time of opening the Florida and south Texas deals is of concern to all of the shippers. Should Florida and Texas come on with heavy shipments the middle of May and reduce our outlet, it seems that Idaho would have to ship an average of 150 cars daily, in order to get the crop cleaned-up. If the southern potatoes do not seriously interfere with old-potato markets until the middle of June, Idaho could clean-up at the daily rate of 100 cars.

"No seed potatoes have yet moved from northeastern Idaho, but there seems to be a little selling going on for future shipment. It is probable that the Idaho growers will largely plant their own potatoes this season and avoid the expense of buying dry-land stock."

An amendment to the Idaho Potato Branding regulations has been passed by the State Legislature, whereby the use of plain or unbranded bags is made optional for any lot of potatoes at or above the requirements of U.S. No. 2 grade. Some f.o.b. sales are now being made of Commercial Grade potatoes, containing varying percentages of No. 1's and No. 2's.

14b. A CONTROVERSY IN THE CHICAGO POTATO MARKET

W. H. Hall, of the Chicago office, wrote the following letter on last Saturday, February 28:-

"Last week, potato operators all over the United States were very much worked-up because of the controversy between the Chicago carlot receivers and jobbers. This controversy arose as a result of the inauguration by the receivers of the so-called 48-hour collection rule. Jobbers went on strike, so to speak, - refusing to buy from Chicago receivers, and started buying direct from country shipping points. In addition to the 48-hour collection rule, the receivers demanded that sales be made on an invoice basis unless unloaded within 48 hours. The receivers won out on the 48-hour collection rule, but compromised on the 48-hour invoice regulation by making it noon of the third day following the transaction. Cars unloaded before noon of the third day are paid-for on the basis of out-weights; after that time invoice weights apply. Where cars are paid-for before the expiration of the payment period and cars have not been unloaded, then of course settlement is on basis of invoices. But if the cars are actually unloaded within the specified time, it will be seem that in almost every case an adjustment will have to be made, as out-weights and invoice weights vary considerably.

"It is my personal opinion that this shortening of collections is the best piece of work the carlot receivers have ever put over. Many, perhaps most, of them have entirely too much on their books, and this was due largely to the fact that jobbers have been entirely too lax in extending credit to retailers. It means that they, too, will have to shorten-up on their credits. Receivers say that, so far, the plan is working out very satisfactorily."

15b. MORE NEWS REGARDING IMPORTANT IMPERIAL VALLEY CROPS

A. E. Prugh wrote the following letter from Brawley on February 26:-

"Shippers are now cutting lettuce in new fields, which have come on since the rainy weather, and quality is improving, as shown by the inspection report yesterday, - 168 cars being shipped; 82 inspected, and 15 graded U.S. No. 1. Considerable lettuce is running only fairly firm, however, as shippers are enxious to get it on the market at present cash-track prices, the range of which is generally $1.75-$2.25. The price-advance recently has been caused by the anticipation of light movement. Yields continue light, the new fields showing many early seeders and puffy heads. The rain caused the early seeders, which are not bitter like the usual seeder. About 7,843 cars had moved by the 25th inclusive, and many are estimating only 2,500 yet to move. Usually they can always get lettuce here in the Valley when the price is right, but, apparently on account of the large acreage lost by rain-damage, shipments after this week will be light. At least many are gambling on that condition, and expect practically all of the lettuce to be out of the way by March 15.

"Arizona shippers are expecting a satisfactory deal, with Imperial Valley closing strong and cleaning-up early. The first car from the Phoenix spring crop is expected out March 10, with movement reaching 50 cars a day by the 20th or 25th.

"Ten cars of peas have been shipped by February 25 and harvesting in the Calipatria district, where most of the pea acreage is located, may reach 8 or 10 cars a day next week. Some aphis and mildew have appeared, but general quality and yield are reported good. Asparagus is also now moving in a small way, with four straight cars out by the 25th.

"The Valley is planning to move the earliest cantaloupes on record, with a few ripe ones by April 1. However, there is an unusual situation this season. Uncovered acreage is usually planted from the 1st to the 20th of February and, on account of the rainy weather, practically no planting was done at that time. They have started planting a few this week. This no doubt will cause very light shipments the last two weeks in June and will also result in the Valley's uncovered acreage coming on with the Phoenix crop.

"After the fields dried out, carrot movement increased. There is a very light demand at $1.25 now. Too much rain has caused light color."

16b. SHIPMENT DATA FOR 1930

Within the next few days, all branch offices of the News Service will be furnished complete sets of 42 sheets, showing the total 1930 carlot shipments of the important fruits and vegetables by originating States and by months. Any other members of the F. & V. Division needing such statistics can obtain sets of these shipment sheets on request.

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	May 1
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 15
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept.23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House	894	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Mar. 31
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	June 6
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Mar. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 1
			Peppers	Dec. 19	May 1
			Tomatoes	Jan. 16	May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach	Jan. 5	Feb. 28
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 16	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 16	May 15
			Onions	Mar. 23	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
BRAWLEY, CALIF.,** Planters' Hotel Bldg.	933	A. E. Prugh L. T. Kirby	Lettuce	Jan. 5	Mar. 21
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

B. E. Surry in Chicago. W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)
C. D. Schoolcraft enroute to Brownsville, Texas.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. HALF-HOLIDAY ON SATURDAYS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 7

The Act providing for a 4-hour work day on Saturday throughout the year for Government employees affects all members of the Fruit and Vegetable Division, both in Washington and in the field.

In the Inspection Service it may be necessary at times for some men to work on Saturday afternoons. The law provides that, when the exigencies of the service require a person to work Saturday afternoons, he may be excused from duty another afternoon of the week. The fruit and vegetable business cannot be operated by the clock and no requests for inspection should ever be declined on account of the Saturday half-holiday.

2c. ABBREVIATIONS SHOULD BE MADE CORRECTLY

On some inspection note forms, mimeographed in branch offices, the abbreviation "D.K." is being used instead of "DECAY." It is doubtful whether there is any abbreviation for the word "decay" and, while "D.K." may be written in pencil in the body of the notes, it is not permissible for these letters to appear in typewritten, mimeographed or printed form. The column on the note sheets, which provides space for showing the amount of decay, should be headed "DECAY" and not "D.K." Inspectors should bear in mind that their notes may be called into court and, for this reason, it is highly important that they should be written correctly and be easily interpreted.

3c. EXPLANATION OF WASHINGTON RHUBARB GRADES

The following letter was received from F. E. Bailey, at Yakima, under date of February 21:-

"Recently there were mailed from this office copies of the Sumner Rhubarb Growers Association grades for hot-house rhubarb to all market inspection offices. These are new grades, prepared rather hurriedly, and there are some points on which further explanation is necessary and which may be clarified another season.

"One point is with regard to diameter of stalks where the phrases 'well over 5/8 inch' and 'well over 1/2 inch' are used in the Extra Fancy and Fancy grades. These phrases are being interpreted at shipping-point as meaning that the stalks are 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch over the specified diameter. Possibly next season the Association will see fit to raise the specified minimum diameter by 1/8 of an inch, so that the phrase 'well over' may be discarded.

"Under the definition of 'fresh,' the statement: 'shows evidence of having been recently pulled or packed,' applies only at shipping-point.

"At the present time, two or three cars of this hot-house rhubarb, from Sumner and Auburn, are being rolled each day, so you may have some questions regarding it in the markets."

FIRST DELIVERIES of Idaho Russet potatoes, bought on the Chicago "futures" market about seven weeks ago, were made on Wednesday. The price of these cars was $1.80-$1.90 per cwt. and the same grade of potatoes is selling at present on the "spot" market around $1.50.

4c. CRYSTAL CITY DISTRICT INSPECTION REPORTS AVAILABLE FROM SAN ANTONIO

Below is a portion of a letter, written by H. T. Longino on February 26:-

"Receiving markets are wiring directly to me in Harlingen, Texas, regarding cars that are listed from the Crystal City territory. I have arranged to have this daily list of cars inspected sent out from the San Antonio office, and you will note that the lists call attention to the office to be wired. It is an unnecessary delay to have wires come to Harlingen, as I have no record of the Winter Garden cars here. I shall appreciate your calling attention to this matter through the Division Letter. It is best to give this information directly from the office where the rough notes are in file. There is no one in the Austin office to give this information."

5c. WASHINGTON STATE INSPECTIONS DURING JANUARY

The following table shows the number of carlot inspections made at shipping points in Washington during January, 1931:-

Apples.....	2,673	Onions.....	53
Cabbage.....	2	Pears.....	193
Mixed fruit.....	4	Potatoes.....	524
		Total:	3,449

6c. LATE BLIGHT TOMATO ROT IN MEXICAN TOMATOES

E. E. Conklin, of the Chicago office, has called attention to the fact that many cars of Mexican tomatoes now arriving in city markets are showing Late Blight Tomato Rot. Previously or in former seasons this trouble has appeared in California tomatoes. Attached to this D.L. is a copy of an article prepared by Dr. G. B. Ramsey, Senior Pathologist of B.P.I. This should be detached and be filed with other information on tomatoes in each inspectors's possession.

7c. RAINS AND WINDS CAUSE DAMAGE TO FLORIDA TOMATOES

The following wire was received on Tuesday by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates from J. C. Townsend in Florida:-

"Heavy rains and winds on Saturday and Sunday in Collier County wiped out about 75% of the tomatoes. In Dade County no acreage was completely destroyed, but all was considerably damaged. This has been estimated by some to be as high as 50% but I believe this high. Rainfall in Collier County was unofficially reported to be eight inches; about two inches of rain at Palmetto, but damage slight."

R. C. BUTLER, Supervisor of Inspection.

THE FARM OUTLOOK FOR 1931

Miscellaneous Publication No. 112 is a 16-paged leaflet, entitled: "The Farm Outlook for 1931." This is a condensation in popular form of the main facts in the 1931 Agricultural Outlook Report. It is printed in large open type, with frequent headings, and should be very popular among growers in all parts of the country. Copies are available directly from the Division of Economic Information in this Bureau.

1e. REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. COPIES OF IMPORTANT SPEECH ON P.A.C. ACT

With this D.L., each technical employee of the Fruit and Vegetable Division and each cooperative inspector will receive a mimeographed copy of an address on the P.A.C. Act, delivered by Mr. Robb at the convention of the Western Fruit Jobbers' Association of America, at Phoenix, Arizona. This contains a lot of valuable material and information which every man should have. Preserve your copy along with other material on P.A.C. Act. (-the above item was prepared by the D.L. editor)

2e. JUDGE DILLMAN APPOINTED FOR WORK ON P.A.C. ACT

With the recent passage of the Agricultural Appropriation Bill for 1932, $100,000 has become immediately available for the administration of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. This enables the Bureau to begin an active campaign in the field in clearing up more than 400 complaints which have accumulated during the last eight months and which remain unsettled. One of the first steps taken in this direction is the appointment, in the office of the Solicitor of the Department, of Raymond L. Dillman, who will be assigned to legal work under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

Mr. Dillman has practiced law in South Dakota for nearly 11 years. He was Circuit Judge of the Twelfth South Dakota Judicial Circuit for eight years, and for nearly two years he served as Assistant Attorney General for South Dakota, located at Pierre.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman went to Maryland Agricultural College, at College Park, last Tuesday and addressed one of the classes on marketing, his particular subject being: "Things the Buyer Should Remember."

B. C. Boree expects to reach Atlanta by Saturday of this week on his return-trip to Washington. He probably will be back at his desk by Wednesday, March 11.

Wm. E. Lewis left Washington on Wednesday morning for Orlando, Fla., where he will participate in a conference regarding grades for citrus fruits. He took with him a set of models of these fruits, illustrating various aspects of the Federal standards. Others attending this conference at Orlando are O. G. Strauss, Supervising Inspector in Florida; H. T. Longino, who has come over from Harlingen, Texas, where he is in charge of shipping-point inspection work, and A. S. Mason, who will later go to Porto Rico.

R. R. Pailthorp and R. L. Spangler went from Washington to Dover, Del., on Wednesday for the purpose of conferring with State officials and several canners regarding grading and inspection of tomatoes. They returned this morning.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

A. S. Mason left New York City last Saturday for points in Florida, where he will spend a couple of weeks, investigating the grading and packing of Florida citrus fruits, in preparation for his assignment to Porto Rico, where he will supervise the shipping-point inspection work on these products. While in Florida, Mr. Mason will select two inspectors, one of whom will accompany him to Porto Rico and the other of whom will follow a month later, when shipments assume considerable volume. The work in Porto Rico is scheduled to start the last of March.

Herbert Graff went to Winchester, Va., on Thursday to inspect some apples stored at that point.

Among visitors to the Washington office this week were W. E. Harrison, of the Baltimore market-news office, and F.S. Kinsey, enroute from Winchester, Va., to New York City, where he will now be stationed.

W. C. Hackleman, of the New York inspection office, spent one day this week in Philadelphia, conferring with inspectors in that market.

C. D. Schoolcraft will leave Waupaca, Wis., about March 11 and proceed to Brownsville, Texas, where he will substitute for W. D. Googe, while Mr. Googe is on military leave. R. G. Risser will go from Chicago to Waupaca to issue the potato market reports until the close of that station.

J. G. Cross is visiting railroad officials and representatives of our Division at various points in the State of Washington this week, and will proceed shortly to points in Idaho, Utah and Colorado.

H. A. Arenz, of the Milwaukee office, and L. G. C. Peirce, of the St. Louis inspection office, have been summoned to Van Buren, Ark., to testify in a suit regarding cars of berries which they had inspected. D. C. Beeler, of the Chicago staff, has gone to Milwaukee to substitute for Mr. Arenz during the next few days. No substitute was required in St. Louis.

Word has just been received that F. M. Lyle, inspector in Kansas City, is confined to bed by illness, and Grover Clyde has been sent from Chicago to handle the work in Kansas City until Mr. Lyle can return to duty. C. A. Siegmund, clerk in the Kansas City market-news office, has also been off duty for a considerable length of time, because of illness.

W. W. Anderson, of the New York inspection staff, was sick with the "flu" during February, and has now gone to his home in Chatham, Va., where he is taking leave in order to recuperate more promptly.

With sincere regret, announcement is made of the death on February 25 of Louis A. Lambert, telegraph operator in the Seattle office. He was ill only a short time. Mr. Lambert had been in the service of this Bureau since September, 1926, and at various times had been employed in the offices at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Boise and Seattle. His body was taken to Pennsylvania for burial. Mr. Lambert is survived by a widow.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

W. F. Allewelt returned some days ago to his headquarters in Sacramento, after a 10-day trip to numerous points in California. Oral interviews, in connection with the written Civil Service examinations recently held in California, were given in various sections of the State. Mr. Allewelt's itinerary took him through the San Joaquin Valley to Los Angeles and them to Imperial Valley. He returned to Sacramento along the coast, visiting practically all the branch offices of the shipping-point inspection service in California.

W. L. Evans and C. R. Newton made a trip to Baltimore on March 2 for the purpose of consulting with the U. S. Attorney in connection with the prosecution of a commission merchant for violation of the Produce Agency Act.

Mr. Evans left Washington on March 3 for Charleston, S.C., and Asheville, N.C. He expects to return to Washington about March 10.

R. H. Shoemaker left on March 5 for Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Detroit, for the purpose of making investigations under the Produce Agency Act. He will return about March 25.

O. N. Harsha expects to leave Washington on March 8 for Philadelphia, Newark, New York City, Hartford, and Springfield, Mass., for the purpose of making investigations under the Produce Agency Act. He will be back at his desk by March 21.

In connection with the F.P.I.-8 list of inspection offices, recently distributed from Washington, please note that the address of the office in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., should be 266 Miners' Bank Bldg., instead of Room 242. Make this correction on all copies of the list.

T. R. Hall, of Seattle, advises us that his residence telephone number has been changed to East 3333, the phone at the apartment house in which he now lives. Please make this change on all lists.

A summary of the personnel changes, mentioned on Page 147, is given below:

W. H. Steinbauer from Boston to Washington, D.C., for P.A.C. Act duties.
W. G. Lensen from Detroit to Washington, D.C., for P.A.C. Act duties.
W. F. Plummer from New Haven to Boston office of Inspection Service.
R. W. Tyson from New York City to New Haven office of Inspection Service.
R. C. Lindstrom from Chicago to the new office at Des Moines, Iowa.
R. B. Landrum from New York City to the new office at Tulsa, Okla.
A. H. Polster from Cincinnati to the new office at Dallas, Texas.
W. W. Anderson from New York City to the new office at Birmingham, Ala.
T. C. Curry to be reinstated and assigned to the Louisville office.

J. W. Dykes accompanied Mr. Evans on his southern trip and will proceed shortly to Louisville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Bloomington, Ill., and Detroit. Mr. Dykes will probably return to Washington about March 25.

LATE BLIGHT TOMATO ROT IN CALIFORNIA

by
G. B. Ramsey, Senior Pathologist, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

During the past three years, a high percentage of the California tomatoes shipped during September, October and November has been lost, due to decay caused by a fungus which appears to be identical with the one (Phytophthora infestans) that causes Late Blight of potatoes. For this reason the tomato disease is called Late Blight Tomato Rot.

Where susceptible crops are grown, such as the potato and tomato, in regions whose temperature and moisture conditions are favorable for the growth of this fungus, Late Blight is one of the most destructive diseases known. The amount of damage caused is directly related to the weather conditions. Most serious loss is sustained during wet seasons, when the nights are cool (50-60°F.) and the days moderately warm (60-75°F.). The disease is checked when the mean daily temperature is above 75°F. The spores or seed-like bodies of the fungus are killed within a few days during dry weather, when the temperature reaches 80°F. Consequently, in regions where the temperature is high and the air is dry for a greater part of the time, Late Blight is not an important disease.

Unfortunately, a great part of the fall crop of tomatoes in California is grown in regions almost ideal for the development and spread of Late Blight. Heavy fogs are common and the temperature ranges between 50° and 75°F. for a great part of the time.

Field and packing-house observations and experiments, together with experimental test shipments made by the writer during 1928, appear to justify the following conclusions. It should be kept in mind, however, that further work to be conducted this fall may show that some of these statements need modification:

1. Late Blight is a field disease of tomatoes, which is evident on the vines immediately before and during the time decay shows on the fruit.
2. Tomatoes harvested from plants showing an appreciable amount of blight are certain to show some decay.
3. Fruit harvested from badly blighted vines should be held for at least four days and then be carefully sorted before packing for shipment. This procedure will greatly reduce the danger from loss during transit, but will not entirely eliminate it.
4. Infection of the fruit takes place at the stem scar in practically all instances, but may also take place through a wound in any part of the tomato.
5. After the fungus gets into the stem scar, it usually takes from three to five days for the decay to become visible.
6. The first evidence of decay is a small light-brown watersoaked blotch at the edge of the stem scar. Pressure applied by moving the thumb over this blotch toward the stem causes drops of water to come out at the edge of the scar.
7. Tomatoes showing no evidence of decay may develop spots varying in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter during six days' transit.
8. Spots present on the fruit at shipping time increase from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter during six days' transit.
9. Spread of the disease from decaying fruit to healthy fruit during transit is rare.
10. Experiments on washing tomatoes in sterilizing solutions show that the amount of decay may be reduced 50% or more, but it is not felt that this method should be recommended at this time.

Sept. 16, 1929.
(reprinted March 6, 1931)

MEXICAN TOMATOES also show this disease.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 11 March 13, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ADDING TO YOUR INCOME

The matter of outside employment for those who are in a regular Civil Service status is fairly-well covered by existing regulations, but it is possible that these may escape the attention of field men who have never had occasion to spend much time in the Washington office. The general rule is that none of us may engage in any other occupation or activity for compensation without the prior consent of the Chief of Bureau, who is responsible to the Secretary for seeing that general departmental policies in the matter are observed.

Perhaps the most usual method of supplementing one's income is through writing for pulication outside the Department. Permission to prepare or submit such articles for publication must be secured in advance, and there usually is little difficulty in obtaining this permission. The conditions are that the work must be done entirely outside of office hours and must not make use of any unpublished material which the Bureau may wish to use in later publications. After permission has been secured, it is necessary to submit a copy of the article or volume to the Bureau for approval, before it is actually transmitted to be publisher. One copy must remain with the Bureau, and the library is to be furnished with a copy of the publication in which an article finally appears.

Permission to engage in other remunerative work may not be quite so easily obtained. The Department must consider all the facts in the case and must be convinced that neither the actual work of the Department nor its reputation or standing before the public will be injured or endangered by what the employee proposes to do. It has happened in a few instances that employees undertook to sell certain products or to solicit orders or business for certain firms, without securing the consent of the Bureau. This always results in embarrassment, and the employee may be required to discontinue such work abruptly and under circumstances which do not enhance his reputation either in or out of the service. Therefore, be sure to consult with the Washington office before undertaking any activity for which you are to receive pay. No restriction has ever been put upon increasing our incomes indirectly through work on our own properties nor upon the purchase and sale of our own real estate, but acting as an agent for others in such purchases and sales is outside employment for which permission must be obtained.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. MAILING THE DIVISION LETTER

In cases where only one copy of the D.L., goes to an office, it is usually folded to fit a long, narrow envelope, size 4 1/8 x 9 1/2 inches. If the reader finds this three-fold arrangement inconvenient or if the D.L. arrives in bad condition, please advise the editor.

3a. DEALER FINED FOR SELLING NON-STANDARD CONTAINERS

A case involving the illegal sale of non-standard 14-quart hampers has recently been closed in the United States District Court at Hartford, Conn. The Fowler-Hunting Company of Hartford, jobbers of fruit and vegetable containers, entered a plea of nolo contendere and was fined $25. Another case, involving the sale of this illegal container by a grower, is pending in the same court.

4a. APPLE COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS, MARCH 1

Below is the March 1 report of cold-storage holdings of apples, which was released in Washington yesterday at 2 P.M.:-

	Mar. 1, 1931	Mar. 1, 1930	Five-year Avg.
Barrels:	484,000	897,000	1,462,000
Boxes:	11,337,000	7,282,000	7,499,000
Baskets:	2,855,000	2,805,000	1,848,000

Total holdings under refrigeration were equivalent to 5,215,000 barrels, which is 22% more than the total holdings of March 1, 1930, and 14% above the five-year average figure.

5a. STORAGE HOLDINGS IN CALIFORNIA

The San Francisco office submitted the following report of cold and dry-storage holdings of perishables in that State on February 28:-

		Total Cold-Storage Holdings		
Commodity & Containers		Feb. 28, 1931	Feb. 15, 1931	Feb. 28, 1930
Apples	(Boxes)	1,694,333	2,041,248	988,053
Pears	(Boxes and Lugs)	189,572	207,453	107,242
Onions	(Sacks)	76,164	89,307	126,525
Potatoes	(Sacks)	230,457	220,961	188,989
		Total Dry-Storage Holdings		
Onions	(Sacks)	13,796	19,974	20,669
Potatoes	(Sacks)	125,808	141,563	90,746

6a. SPECIAL REPORT ON SCALDED APPLES IN FOREIGN MARKETS

The Foreign Service Division of this Bureau issued on March 9 a special mimeographed report, F.S.:A-355, entitled: "Scalded Apples on the European Markets." It is an interesting statement by F. A. Motz, of the London office, regarding condition and prices of American apples, which show scald on arrival in British and other markets. This trouble has been very prevalent since the first of the year. Copies of the report can be had directly from the Foreign Service Division.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. FLORIDA STRAWBERRY OUTPUT RATHER DISAPPOINTING

Below is a good report on southwestern Florida strawberries and celery, submitted by R. M. Peterson from Plant City on March 10:-

"All strawberry estimates, past and future, seem to be a waste of time and energy, as the yield is almost entirely a question of weather, which has been decidedly unfavorable. On a number of occasions, the vines were heavily set with fruit, promising heavy movement the following week, but rains and cool weather retarded development and caused many berries to rot in the field. Earlier estimates indicated that the peak movement would occur around March 1, but February 14 showed the heaviest day's movement so far, with 33 cars shipped on that date. The following week witnessed the heaviest weekly movement, with a total of 150 cars, but the next week's estimated total of 200 dropped to 103 cars. During that week, an inspection of the fields showed a heavy set of berries, but rains on the following Monday reduced the movement to six cars on that day and the total shipments for that week, ending March 7, were only 92 cars.

"It now seems as though the peak movement is past and, unless unusually favorable conditions develop, the shipments from central Florida will be light for the balance of this season. Vines are still showing a good set of berries, but vitality of the plants has been reduced to the point where it is doubtful if they can recover sufficiently to produce a good crop. Should ideal weather develop, it would be several weeks before the plants could show much improvement, and this would bring the Florida crop in direct competition with Louisiana berries, according to present indications. The total movement from Florida to date is nearly 400 cars less than output of the two previous seasons to this time, and that same difference will probably prevail at the end of the season unless the Starke-Lawtey section shows quite heavy movement. This section has a greatly reduced acreage, but plants are in good condition and, although badly retarded by recent frosts and rains, they give indications of a heavy crop late in the season.

"The strawberry market at shipping point has been very satisfactory to the growers, with prices during the past two weeks averaging nearly 4¢ per pint higher than those of the same two weeks last season. Last week's average of nearly 18¢ per pint was only 1¢ higher than that of the previous week but was 5¢ higher than the average for the week ending February 21. These high prices prevailed in spite of the fact that most berries were not of good quality.

"The movement of celery from the Manatee-Sarasota section is very light and will show no improvement until about April 1, when it is expected that the spring crop will be ready for cutting. Sarasota will move around 15 cars this week and probably none next week. Manatee will probably ship around 25 cars each week for the balance of this month. Although nearly all of the Sarasota celery is being sold as fair quality, it practically meets the requirements of U.S. No. 1, and approximately half the Manatee celery is grading U.S. No. 1."

2b. ARIZONA SPRING LETTUCE PLANTINGS were reduced sharply this year to 16,000 acres, compared with 23,000 last spring.

3b. VERY HEAVY SNOWFALL IN WESTERN NEW YORK

The exceptionally heavy fall of snow, which occurred in western New York early this week, is described by R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office, in his letter of March 10:-

"The heaviest snowstorm of the entire season has occurred in western New York during the past two days and is still in progress. Snow has fallen to a depth of 17 to 18 inches. Temperatures, however, have continued moderate, the minimums being only two or three degrees below freezing. Although the State highways are kept fairly-well open, the country roads offer plenty of obstacles to automobile traffic. The movement of most lines of produce has been reduced in accordance with the amount of hauling necessary from the farm. Commodities stored in commercial storage-houses, close to a railroad-sidings, can be loaded without interruption.

"Shipments of apples have been well maintained. From an outturn of 320 cars last week, 40 to 45% were destined for foreign markets. Although a good portion of the export-roll is being sold f.o.b., there would be considerably more interest shown by the exporters, if the quality and condition of the fruit were more acceptable. U.S. No. 1 grade apples are scarce, the bulk of the movement being lower grades.

"The cabbage deal is drawing to a close. Indications are that less than 200 additional cars will move, although the quantity in storage is considerably in excess of that number. The season has been a disappointing one. F.o.b. prices are holding around $11-$12 per ton of sacked cabbage and $1-$2 less for bulk shipments.

"Onions are showing a little more activity, although shippers cannot do much forcing, in the face of heavy holdings in all the important late producing sections.

"Dealers in potatoes report a rather slow demand, with the market favoring dullness. Growers are still receiving 60¢-65¢ per bushel for their tubers.

"Carrots continue to be neglected. Sales of 100-pound sacks from farm storage brought 45¢ last week, and yesterday some stock from cold storage was reported at 55¢ per sack of 100 pounds. Daily movement averaged around 10 cars."

4b. SANFORD CELERY PRICES DECLINING

J. B. Owens wrote as follows from the field station at Sanford, Fla., on Monday, March 9:-

"There has been very little change in the Sanford celery situation during the past week, other than a slight decline in the price on large sizes. Shipments from this district for the week were about the same as for the previous week, averaging slightly less than 60 cars a day. The movement for this (current) week will possibly be slightly heavier, provided weather conditions are favorable. The demand for small to medium sized stock has been good, but that for large stock has been slow, with a gradual weakening in price.

"Quality of the crop continued good, with most fields packing out a heavy percentage of large sizes. The appearance of pink rot in the fields has become quite general, but the cool weather of the past few days has retarded its development and, as yet, it has caused no appreciable loss."

5b. HEAVY MOVEMENT OF MAINE POTATOES

W. D. Hull sent the following letter from Presque Isle, Maine, on March 9:-

"It could easily be said that the eternal optimism of the Maine potato shippers sustained the f.o.b. market last week. A few of the operators in each of the larger villages persisted in paying 5¢ per barrel above the prevailing street-price, thereby forcing the other shippers, who were in favor of lowering the price paid the growers, to stay in line if they cared to buy any appreciable amount of stock. Several of the larger operators, with chains of loading stations, tried to establish a price of $1.75 per barrel, but, with some of the smaller buyers paying $1.85-$1.90, it was impossible for those who were offering the lower price to get many potatoes, except at sidings where they had no competition. In the main, haulings were about the same as the previous week, although during the latter part of the week there was some tendency to increase because of the weaker feeling which prevailed, while during the preceding seven days many growers held back because of the firmer tendency of the market.

"Shipments from Maine were heavier during the first of the week than they were the previous week, as a result of the number of loaded cars carried over the week-end partly because of the dull market in the cities and partly because of the railroad regulations which permit cars to be shipped without heater-charges after the first of March. It is interesting to note that daily shipments fluctuated very little; the highest was 278 cars, the lowest 252, and the average for the week was 264 cars per day. While total shipments were about 70 cars greater than for the previous week, the increase was in movement of certified and selected seed and not the result of an increased demand for table stock. Many dealers said that it was the quietest week since the dull period of last November.

"Total shipments this season to date are now past 38,000 and continue to gain on the corresponding figure for last year. This fact is the source of cheerfulness to some and of worry to others. The cheerful ones hold that Maine is shipping faster this year than last, when there was a large crop, and that by the end of April supplies will be so light that the market will surely improve. Those who look on the dark side of the question say that the gain in shipments indicates that holdings are greater than the majority realize and that the increased shipments will no more than take care of the portion of the crop yet to be moved.

"Demand for seed was rather slow last week, although there was an increase in the number of certified-seed shipments reported. The majority of these shipments are on contracts made earlier in the season and are no indication of the present demand. In some cases, sales of Green Mountains were made at lower levels than the preceding week; however, these sales were made by dealers who have a large supply of certified seed on hand and are anxious to move as many as possible without too much regard for the prices they receive.

"Shippers do not expect any marked upturn to the market during the current week. It was the intention of the larger operators to start the street-price at $1.75 per barrel on Monday, March 9."

6b. WISCONSIN POTATO MARKET SHOWS A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT

The following letter of March 6 came from C. D. Schoolcraft, then in charge of the Waupaca, Wis., field station:-

"The Wisconsin potato market has strengthened slightly since the first of the week and prices have advanced 5¢-10¢ per cwt. This may be largely accounted for by lighter offerings on the part of shippers. Shipments have averaged about 10 cars per day fewer than in previous weeks. Haulings have been very light, partly because of bad weather the fore part of the week but largely due to the fact that most growers still harbor hopes that prices will go up again.

"Shipments to date are about 7,400 cars, as against 11,300 to the same time last season. If the total for the State reaches the 11,000-car mark, which was the early season estimate of the crop, shipments will have to continue as heavy as they were last season after this date, which is improbable. Some shippers have reduced their estimates to 10,000 cars, but any actual determination is hard to get at, because of the relatively high percentage of the crop remaining with farmers, as compared with last year when dealers' holdings were rather heavy, in some localities at least.

"A new development the past few days has been a slightly increased demand for No. 2's. These are being sold at 45¢-50¢ f.o.b., but even this is a welcome figure to many shippers. No one seems to know just what the final use of these No. 2's is. Perhaps they are being used in stew, to displace some of Mr. Prugh's lettuce."

7b. POTATO AND ONION NEWS FROM COLORADO

The following letter of March 7 came from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office:-

"The past week has seen an abundance of moisture throughout all sections of Colorado, with the total well in excess of normal at this time of year. The thermometer dropped to an official of 7° above zero Friday night, March 6, which is the lowest point reached this winter.

"Potato shipments from the San Luis Valley total exactly 8,800 cars to Friday night, March 6. This compares with 8,072 last year at this time and the final movement of 9,046 for the season. Shippers generally estimate 1,200 to 1,500 cars remaining in the Valley. A better demand was noticed at Colorado shipping points Friday, and on Saturday morning indications were that prices would advance over the week-end.

"Onion shipments from the Arkansas Valley have now reached 1,208 cars. Dealers vary in the estimate of supplies left, but it is certain that at least 1,250 cars will be shipped and possibly 1,300 cars. The movement by this time last year was 2,159 cars, and approximately 400 were shipped after this date last season. All the stock shipped in sacks from the Arkansas Valley is now grading around 90% U.S. No. 1 and a good demand has developed for three-inch Valencias."

7½b. CELERY PACKAGED

Celery wrapped in moisture-proof cellophane will be the latest perishable to be packaged, if experiments now under way by Du Pont prove successful. Celery thus wrapped is now being distributed in the Chicago area by one chain. Experiments are being made for packaging tomatoes, lettuce and asparagus.

8b. LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY SITUATION DISCOURAGING

W. D. Googe wrote as follows from Brownsville, Texas, in a letter of March 8:-

"Marketing lower Rio Grande Valley fruits and vegetables during the past week has continued to be disappointing to growers and shippers. A slightly better inquiry for cabbage a week ago brought loadings up to around 100 cars daily, and by Thursday shippers reported that there was very little demand at any price. A few wire-order sales were reported as high as $9 per ton early in the week. Growers were being paid as high as $5 a ton. At the close of the week, growers received mostly $3 and $4 per ton from shippers who were financially interested in their crops. Some operators refused to take cabbage from any other than their regular customer growers. Cash-track business was very light, even in cars of mixed vegetables. These were generally loaded only upon receipt of specific orders.

"The carrot movement was draggy, with lettuce crates going mostly at $1.10-$1.20 f.o.b. usual terms, the higher price being for carefully-packed half-long varieties. There was little demand for Chantenays, and Ox Hearts were not desired at all. Beets moved fairly well at mostly a nickel lower than carrots, as long as shipments held around a dozen cars a day. The Valley has an abundant supply of beets this season, and the quality is reported to be the best in many years. Turnips are still to be had at any price buyers are disposed to pay, but many growers are plowing them under because of the slow demand.

"The unseasonably cold weather which has prevailed throughout the country brought a few light frosts here in the Rio Grande Valley. So far, very little damage has been reported. That has been to beans and tomatoes in some isolated places, but the loss of acreage has been almost negligible. Some growers believe the yield will be cut materially, since the plants are being stunted. The weather forecast indicates that this cold-spell will continue through Monday and Tuesday, March 9 and 10."

9b. ABOUT 245 CARS OF IDAHO POTATOES SOLD IN ONE DAY AT SHIPPING POINTS

L. C. Tate made the following interesting report in a letter of March 6 from Idaho Falls:-

"Quite unexpectedly, we found extremely heavy trading at Idaho shipping points Friday night, March 6, and, while no change of price occurred during this flurry, there appears to be a much better feeling among the potato dealers.

"Upper Valley sales on loaded cars amounted to 86 cars of No. 1 Russets, 2 cars of small bags, 43 cars of No. 2 Russets, 1 car of combination-pack Russets, and 3 cars of No. 1 Rurals. At lower Valley stations, the sales reported to us included warehouse-packs consisting of 32 cars of No. 1 Russets and 28 cars of No. 2 Russets, while farm-packs amounted to 25 cars of No. 1 Russets and 25 cars of No. 2 Russets. Prices were unchanged, but, as many of these sales were for next week's loading, we believe trading will be on a firmer basis next week if we have a normal or good demand. These carlot sales total 245 cars, and represent one of the heaviest day's trading that has ever occurred in this territory."

-- NEWS ITEMS from branch offices will be welcomed by D.L. editor. --

10b. RAIN, WIND AND FROST COMBINE TO DAMAGE FLORIDA CROPS

Further information about the bad weather recently in southern Florida is contained in the following letter of March 7 from V. H. Nicholson, at Miami:-

"Rain, wind and frost have combined to injure southern Florida vegetables this week. The heavy rain on Sunday and Monday was followed by high winds on Tuesday and Wednesday and by colder weather and a light frost in some sections. Practically no locality escaped without some damage from the inclement weather.

"There was a rainfall of 3.38 inches here in Miami during Sunday and Monday. Growers and shippers report that the fall was heavier north of here and over on the West Coast in Collier and Lee counties, but was much lighter south of here and especially so in the tomato section around Homestead. According to all available reports, it now appears that probably 75% of the 2,500 acres of tomatoes in Collier County will be lost. The damage to Broward County's 3,000 acres of tomatoes has been variously estimated at 25% to 40% loss from the high water. In the Homestead area there was some drowning, but the loss will not exceed 10% of the 4,000 to 4,500 acres in that area. There is still a possibility that a part of the flooded acreage will recover, if ideal weather conditions prevail, but the yields of such acreage would probably be cut considerably. The yield on much of the remaining acreage has probably been cut, and the quality of all shipments during the next few days is expected to be rather ordinary. The high wind which followed the rain whipped the vines in many localities and did some damage, but the cold weather Wednesday night did little damage to the tomato crop, and only light frost was noticed in a very few localities in the tomato areas.

"While the beans and peppers around Pompano and the beans around Lake Okeechobee escaped without serious damage from the rain, the high wind whipped the vines and scarred most of the young beans. The cold weather was accompanied by a frost in the Lake Okeechobee region on Wednesday night, but clouds prevented frost on the East Coast. The damage to the beans between Canal Point and Belle Glade has been variously estimated at 10% to 25%. There was practically no damage north of Canal Point and south of Belle Glade around to South Bay.

"While there was no frost in the Pompano area, the temperature fell to 34° according to one grower there. There was some damage from the low temperature and the high winds in that section and it is probable that yields will be reduced at least one-fourth. Most shipments of beans will be of rather ordinary quality for a week or 10 days. Growers and shippers report little damage to the peppers in the Fort Lauderdale-Pompano area, but it is probable that the quality of the crop has been injured."

10½b. TWO ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES

Two additional summaries of field deals have been issued this week:-

"Marketing Georgia and South Carolina Asparagus, 1930 Season," by J. H. Hoover, of the Atlanta office, issued from Atlanta.

"Marketing Eastern Shore Strawberries (Del., Md. and Va.), 1930 Season," by V. H. Nicholson.

11b. THE RHUBARB SITUATION IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, sent the following interesting letter under date of March 6:-

"The harvesting and marketing of rhubarb from the Sumner-Puyallup district of Washington is still occupying the attention of growers and shippers. Records show 60 cars of this early vegetable have moved from western Washington, but the quantity moving by auto truck and in less-than-carlots, or in mixed cars, indicates that a total of about 125,000 crates, or an equivalent of 110 carloads, has been marketed to date since the opening of the 1931 season. Operators estimate that the aggregate movement will approach 125 cars, before the outdoor crop makes any appreciable inroads on the markets.

"The distribution has been rather wide and satisfactory returns have been reported. Chicago is the leading market for car-lots, but San Francisco and Los Angeles have both been centers of distribution for the earlier shipments. An occasional car has been marketed in Kansas City, St. Louis, and one or two other eastern cities. Some of the crop has moved by express into Montana and other Rocky Mountain States, while the auto-truck has distributed liberal quantities to the nearby northwestern cities.

"The f.o.b. market has registered a slight decline during the past 10 days. Currently, shippers are selling on the basis of $1.10, 95¢ and 60¢, for Extra Fancy, Fancy and Choice grades respectively. Ten days ago the Extra Fancy rhubarb was quoted at $1.35 for the usual-size, ten-pound box, and other grades proportionately lower.

"The season for the outdoor rhubarb crop promises to be early this year. Last year, the first packages of this crop appeared on the Seattle market on April 2, though offerings were not very liberal until well toward May. This year, the mild bright weather is advancing everything, and we may learn of an occasional cutting of the outdoor crop within two weeks. Approximately 100 carloads can be harvested for shipment from the nearby truck-gardens, if market conditions will justify."

12b. ANOTHER REPORT ON IDAHO POTATOES

Another letter of March 6, from L. C. Tate at Idaho Falls, included the following information:-

"The potato market has been unusually quiet at Idaho shipping points during recent weeks, but during the last three days I have noted a tendency among dealers to accumulate a fair quantity of potatoes for prompt or near-future loading. In years past, it has usually been taken for granted that potato jobbers come to a point, sometime in late March or early April, where they wish to stock up for the last time on old potatoes, and this tendency usually develops a good demand at shipping points. While none of our dealers out here are expecting an active market, several appear to believe the demand will be much better in March than in February, and they wish to be prepared to turn stocks rapidly on a small margin.

"One of our local dealers recently toured the State, and on his return estimated that on March 1 there were still 12,000 cars of potatoes to be shipped. It was also his belief that at the present time as much as 25% of the State's gross movement consists of small bags or of mixed cars loaded

(continued over)

partly with small bags. For a while, late in February, a very large portion of the orders coming into Idaho were for small bags, but this week there has been a steady increase in the call for 100-pound bags.

"To date there has been practically no movement and little demand for northern Idaho seed potatoes. With this lack of demand, seed prices are expected to be low in the spring, but it is also expected that cheap seed may induce a considerable increase in speculative plantings for the coming season."

13b. COLD WAVE HITS SOUTHERN TRUCK CROPS

Cold weather in the South during the fore part of this week evidently caused considerable damage to truck crops. Apparently the Louisiana strawberry crop was damaged to some extent and first shipments may be delayed. The Hazlehurst-Crystal Springs section of Mississippi reports approximately 10% loss to tomato plants from strong winds, cold, and hail-damage, but it is not expected that the intended acreage of this crop will be affected. Slight injury was reported to cabbage and peas.

In southern and southeastern Texas, tender spring vegetables suffered considerable damage. Snap beans probably suffered 70% damage, but some acreage will be replanted. Green corn damaged 50% in the lower Rio Grande Valley; cucumbers approximately 50% but some to be replanted. Tomatoes in the lower valley suffered to the extent of 50%, but replantings will be made. Plants still in cold frames were not hurt, so the net loss of acreage may be slight. Potatoes in the lower valley were injured about 40%, but no damage occurred in the Eagle Lake-Wharton district. Watermelons in Willacy County were damaged as much as 75% but less in other counties. Yield of strawberries in Atascosa County may be cut by 20%. Hardy vegetables escaped serious injury.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

"THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION" is a 24-paged monthly publication of the Department of Agriculture, printed on blue paper in bulletin form. It is dated the first of the month but does not come from the press until a few days later. Each branch office of our F. & V. Division should receive a copy of this paper regularly, and field-station men also will be interested in it.

Station	Mail List		Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	May 1
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 21
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept.23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept.11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House	894	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept.15	Mar. 31
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept.15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	June 6
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Mar. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 1
			Peppers	Dec. 19	May 1
			Tomatoes	Jan. 16	May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach	Jan. 5	Mar. 28
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 16	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 16	May 15
			Onions	Mar. 23	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Mar. 18	Apr. 18
The following station will close on date indicated:					
BRAWLEY, CALIF.,** Planters' Hotel Bldg	933	A. E. Prugh L. T. Kirby	Lettuce	Jan. 5	Mar. 14

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

B. E. Surry in Chicago W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)

W. D. Googe on military leave in Texas

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. FURNISHING INFORMATION ON SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTED CARS

Since the passage of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, there has been an increased demand on the part of receivers for information on cars which have been inspected. Many receivers and brokers desire to know whether certain cars have been inspected at point of origin and, if so, what grade was certified. When a receiver or broker asks whether a certain car, in which he is financially interested, was inspected at point of origin and simply wants to know whether it was certified as U.S. No. 1 or not, and this information can be obtained from the lists of shipping-point inspected cars on file, it may be given to him free of charge. If he desires a detailed report, he should be informed that he can obtain same by wiring the Washington office prepaid and, in addition to paying for a collect telegram from this office giving the principal features of the inspection, it will be necessary for him to pay the usual fee of $1 for certificate copy which will be mailed to him.

Inspectors in receiving markets should not use the leased wire to obtain detailed reports on shipping-point inspected cars for the purpose of supplying the receivers with free information. The receivers should pay for their own wires to Washington, requesting information of this kind. When the inspector wires Washington for a report on a certain car, it will be assumed that the information is needed in connection with an appeal inspection.

It may frequently happen that a dealer will request information on cars which do not appear on the lists of inspected cars. If he simply desires to know the grade, the inspector may use the leased wire to obtain a report as to grade from Washington, but a detailed report will not be wired in such case. A wire from inspectors asking for reports on certain cars will be interpreted to mean that detailed reports are desired, but wires asking simply for grade will be interpreted to mean that detailed reports are not desired. The commercial wire should never be used simply for the purpose of obtaining information as to grade for the benefit of some financially-interested party.

It is believed that the policy of furnishing information as to grade, free of charge, will strengthen the service and may prevent the necessity of many appeal inspections. This policy may appear to some as very liberal, but it seems proper to furnish such information readily when it can be done without cost to the Government. It is not to be expected, however, that it will be the policy to furnish this free information on a wholesale scale, because the work would become too burdensome in many of the larger offices. The information should certainly be furnished to anyone who has good intentions of requesting an inspection and whose final decision depends upon the grade as certified at shipping point.

The next two items have been taken from California "Inspectors' Notes" issued at Sacramento on March 6:-

2c. NOGALES INSPECTIONS HEAVY

R. H. Bertelson advised that inspections at Nogales, Arizona, for the month of February covered a total of 723 cars, consisting of 555 tomatoes, 123 peas, 35 mixed, 9 bell peppers, and 1 snap beans. During February of last

year about 501 cars were inspected there. He states that this February is the largest single month at Nogales since the inspection service was inaugurated. The total to date this season is 1,349 cars.

Total shipments this season to date crossing the border at Nogales are reported as 1,305 cars of tomatoes, 1,266 cars of peas, 102 cars of bell peppers, 121 cars of mixed vegetables, 25 cars of snap beans, 2 cars of eggplant, and 1 car of cucumbers, making a total of 2,822 cars. Last season to that same date the figures were 1,852 cars of tomatoes, 2,032 cars of peas, 115 cars of bell peppers, 96 cars of mixed vegetables, 9 cars of snap beans, and 5 cars of cucumbers, making a total of 4,109 cars.

He reports that heavy rains lasting about three days from February 10 to 13 seriously damaged the tomato crop in Mexico. In some sections as much as three inches of rain was reported, and the shippers at Nogales estimated that approximately 65% of the crop was damaged. Future shipments are expected to be considerably less than during the month of February. Mr. Bertelson reports that some cars arriving since the rain have shown large percentages of decay, one car in particular showing an average of 85%.

3c. FEBRUARY INSPECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

About 3,700 inspections were made at shipping points in California during February. The leading districts were as follows:- El Centro-Brawley, 2,194; Santa Maria, 618; San Diego, 303; San Jose-Hayward, 194; Los Angeles, 113; and San Francisco, 139 including 93 shipside inspections.

4c. PEAR "CLUSTER ROT" FOUND AT YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Recently Carl W. Schisler, of the Yakima inspection force, found a lot of Anjou pears in storage which carried a considerable percentage of "cluster rot," caused by the fungus Botrytis.

Specimens from this lot were submitted to Dr. J. S. Cooley, of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Hood River. In acknowledging these specimens, Dr. Cooley advised that about 25,000 or 30,000 boxes of Hood River pears were wrapped this year in specially treated paper, to prevent the spread of this decay from one pear to another in the package. This specially treated paper was originated by Dr. Cooley and he reports that the results of this year's tests are very encouraging.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

1e. INFORMATION REGARDING LICENSEES

Carbons of field correspondence indicate that some field men are inquiring of others as to whether certain firms are licensed or have branches in operation in the territory of other field offices.

The lists sent out to field offices do not contain the names of the branches which are being operated under the license of parent organizations. This information can be obtained only from the Washington files. Such inquiries should be addressed to C. H. Walleigh, of the licensing section, in Washington.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING FEBRUARY, 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total fees
Atlanta	43	58	2	0	$ 188.41
Baltimore	57	49	0	0	227.50
Boston	121	249	30	0	486.73
Buffalo	23	35	1	0	91.40
Chicago	372	166	4	0	1,621.66
Cincinnati	52	71	0	0	233.10
Cleveland	26	28	0	0	153.08
Columbus	12	24	0	0	49.00
Denver	17	26	0	0	79.46
Detroit	59	63	0	0	254.38
Ft. Worth	15	26	0	0	80.59
Harrisburg	5	1	2	0	20.88
Houston	19	43	1	0	88.15
Indianapolis	17	19	1	0	70.00
Jacksonville	73	72	0	0	290.50
Kansas City	66	66	17	4	285.25
Los Angeles	16	20	5	0	64.50
Memphis	30	42	21	0	134.00
Milwaukee	70	60	1	0	265.00
Minneapolis	29	26	0	0	118.44
Newark	95	79	7	10	379.50
New Haven	41	68	6	0	206.84
New Orleans	109	113	30	0	255.50
New York	834	585	142	2	3,142.86
Norfolk	19	12	0	4	88.45
Omaha	61	35	1	1	242.00
Philadelphia	132	220	0	1	487.85
Pittsburgh	75	160	17	2	302.34
Portland	6	21	1	0	39.00
Providence	26	33	1	0	118.30
Rochester	4	2	0	0	16.00
Sacramento	4	2	0	0	22.75
St. Louis	65	51	5	0	265.06
Salt Lake City	2	6	0	0	6.50
San Diego	0	1	0	0	0
San Francisco	10	13	1	0	39.80
Seattle	2	7	0	0	8.00
Springfield	35	69	6	0	184.93
Toledo	24	14	0	0	94.50
Trenton	0	8	0	0	0
Washington	106	113	4	0	504.12
Wilkes-Barre	14	13	1	0	55.70
TOTAL	2,786	2,769	307	24	$11,262.03

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland: - Total 1,540: 1,323 N.Y.C.&St.L., 8 B&O; 11 Erie; 53 Penna. R.R., and 5 Federal Cold Storage.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING FEBRUARY, 1931

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

SYMBOLS N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS	Fruits and vegetables PASSED		Fruits and vegetables REJECTED		TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-weight	
STATIONS	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
GREAT LAKES	100037	0	38865	0	138902	0	0	0	0	0
NEW YORK	87440	52220	3357	225	90797	52445	0	0	0	0
NORFOLK	790556	0	50844	0	841400	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	241619	20969	11114	10	252733	20979	457	111	0	0
SAN DIEGO	409858	50452	6910	300	416768	50752	613	39	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	1974404	48000	120400	0	2094804	48000	0	0	0	0
SAN PEDRO	153576	0	1500	0	155076	0	0	0	0	0
VALLEJO	146935	35730	11565	5386	158500	41116		0	0	0
TOTAL	3904425	207371	244555	5921	4148980	213292	1070	150	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U. S. SHIPPING BOARD:										
NEW YORK	6134		0		6134		0		0	
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U. S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL:										
CHICAGO	44448		960		45408		0		0	
MILWAUKEE	16533		1037		17570		0		0	
NEW YORK	132273		17484		149757		0		0	
PHILADELPHIA	43218		8115		51333		0		0	
ST. LOUIS	22480		1115		23595		0		0	
TOTAL	258952		28711		287663		0		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:

	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	19887	110516	200
Munson S.S. Line	11553	64513	129
Dollar S.S. Line	8459	25815	90
American France Line	3458	21405	0
American Diamond Line	4071	18124	100
American India Line	1218	6620	0
American Brazil Line	5209	765	0
Total	53855	247758	519

The San Pedro office also inspected the following for the Navy: Bread 2,422 lbs., butter 1,702, cheese 275; The Vallejo office also inspected 20,490 lbs. bread and 550 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 1
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 1	Apr. 15
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Sweet-potatoes Vegetables	Sept. 1 Nov. 5	Apr. 1 Apr. 1
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas.	Vegetables	Nov. 20	Apr. 1
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.	Fruits & vegetables	Oct. 27	Apr. 1
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1

REPORTS regarding Ohio shipping-point inspections can be obtained by addressing M. W. Baker, at our Columbus office.

Indiana and Michigan shipping-point inspection reports can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Court House, Warsaw, Indiana.

Reports regarding shipping-point inspections of Tennessee sweet-potatoes can be obtained from Nelson B. Rue, Division of Markets, Nashville.

OFFICE NOTES:

B. C. Boree returned to Washington last Tuesday after his three weeks' trip throughout the South in the interest of the Market News Service. He reports a very satisfactory trip.

J. G. Cross was in Denver this week, and will now proceed to Kansas City, Omaha, Minneapolis, Chicago and Detroit, to confer with railroad officials and with representatives of our Division. He plans to be back in Washington by March 24.

A. S. Mason stopped at the Washington office today, enroute from Florida to New York City. He expects soon to sail for Porto Rico.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

W. H. Hall, in charge of the market-news work in Chicago, will go on two weeks' leave, beginning this Saturday. During his absence, W. J. Bertush, of the Chicago staff, will be in charge of the market-reporting work there.

Brice Edwards, of Mr. Pailthorp's project in Washington, has been detailed to assist with work under the P.A.C. Act. He left Washington on Thursday of last week and is traveling through West Virginia and Virginia, canvassing the territory in which our Bureau has no permanent offices.

It is understood that F. M. Lyle, of the Kansas City inspection office, has recovered from his recent illness and that Grover Clyde, who substituted for him, has now returned to Chicago.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, plans to leave Washington on Sunday for a two weeks' trip through southern potato-producing districts in the interest of the work of the Committee. On March 16 and 17 he expects to be at Gainesville, Fla.; 18th at Hastings, Fla.; 19th at Auburn, Ala.; 20th and 21st around Bay Minette, Ala.; 22nd to 25th in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, La.; 26th at Savannah, Ga.; 27th at Charleston, S.C.; 28th at Norfolk, Va., arriving in Washington again on March 29. On this trip Mr. Mercker will confer with State agricultural officials and extension workers, as well as with potato growers and dealers.

L. G. C. Peirce, of the St. Louis inspection office, is now sick in bed, and W. A. Hilgeson has been sent from Chicago to handle that work during Mr. Peirce's absence.

A. H. Polster left Cincinnati on Wednesday and proceeded to the Fort Worth office, where he will substitute for M. C. Gregory during the next two weeks, while Mr. Gregory is on military leave in Texas. Mr. Polster will open the new office at Dallas about April 1.

H. A. Bowers, of the New York City inspection staff, has been assigned permanently to the inspection office in Cincinnati. He arrived in that market about Wednesday and all communications regarding Cincinnati inspections should now be addressed to Mr. Bowers instead of to Mr. Polster.

It is expected that W. F. Plummer will go from New Haven to Boston by next Monday, March 16, and he will be in charge of the Boston inspection office after that date. R. W. Tyson will be in charge at New Haven beginning next Monday; he will go there from New York City. Please note all these changes on your list of inspection offices.

W. H. Steinbauer arrived from Boston last week and has now taken up his new duties under the P.A.C. Act in Washington. His office is in the Earle Building, uptown.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 12 March 20, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. A PERSISTENT ERROR

We find that many prominent members of the fruit and vegetable trade, including the editor of the Packer, still have the erroneous impression that no dealer is subject to the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act unless he handles 20 carloads or more per year. At a recent informal conference with half a dozen members of the trade in widely scattered cities, who met in Washington, we were assured that many of our own men are giving out misinformation on this point.

Perhaps the best advice we can give you is to forget that you ever heard of 20 carloads in connection with this Act. You never need to remember it except when you are dealing with a man who is EXCLUSIVELY A RETAILER. Such a man need not obtain a license unless he buys 20 carloads per year in quantities of a quarter car or more. The man who handles one barrel of apples or one bag of potatoes or one hamper of beans from another State on commission must be licensed. The jobber who buys one carload per year or four quarter carloads per year from another State or from a dealer who received them from another State must be licensed. If, in any of your interviews, you have left a commission man or jobber under the impression that he need not obtain a license unless he handles 20 cars per year, you should follow-up the matter immediately and correct this wrong impression.

2a. ADVANCES OF FUNDS

Advances of funds for official travel are supposed to be made to cover the expenses of a single trip. When the expense account is rendered, if the entire advance has not been used, the employee's check for the unexpended balance should accompany his expense account. In the cases of those who are in a fairly-constant travel status, it has been arranged to allow an advance, approximately equal to one month's expenses, to remain in the employee's hands while he is in a travel status. These rules are generally well understood and are usually observed. However, there are cases in which employees are tempted to spend this advance of funds for personal uses, expecting the expense voucher to balance the account. This is not the purpose of the advance and is a practice which is always liable to cause embarrassment. For example, - an employee receiving an advance of funds of $200 and who uses this advance to make a payment on a personally-owned automobile is liable to embarrass both himself and the Department and should never yield to the temptation. Sickness or death in his own family may make it necessary to terminate a trip at any moment. Unforeseen happenings in the official service may make it necessary to recall an employee to his headquarters on short notice. In any such case, the entire

amount of the advance which has not been actually expended in official travel is due the Disbursing Clerk in cash and immediately. An employee has no right to say that the advance is secured by the amount to his credit in the retirement fund. This credit is supposed to become available for such purposes only in the event of the employee's resignation, death or permanent disability. The only safe rule is to be absolutely conscientious and careful not to use an advance of funds for any other purpose than that contemplated by the Department. When tempted to do otherwise, resist the impulse.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

3a. REGULATIONS REGARDING LEAVE TAKEN ON SATURDAYS

The recent Act of Congress, providing a half-holiday on Saturdays, says in part: "that on and after the effective date of this Act four hours, exclusive of time for luncheon, shall constitute a day's work on Saturdays throughout the year."

The Administrative Regulations of the Department of Agriculture have been amended as follows:

"494. Saturdays:- Saturdays will be charged as four hours annual leave and as a whole day in sick leave and leave without pay."

All applications for leave, involving Saturday, should be prepared in accordance with this ruling.

4a. THE CITRUS FRUIT SITUATION IN FLORIDA

The following letter of March 17, from H. F. Willson at Winter Haven, Florida, will be of interest to all readers:-

"The orange market showed some improvement this past week, as indicated by both the auction averages and f.o.b. market. According to the Clearing House shipper-report, the f.o.b. sales showed a gain of 10¢ on No. 1 oranges over the previous week and the cars rolling unsold on Friday were the lowest for the past eight weeks. About 526 cars of Florida oranges sold on the leading auctions for an average of $3.60 per box, compared with 588 cars at $3.40 for the previous week. Shipments of California oranges have been comparatively light and Florida fruit has been in fairly good demand. The quality of Florida oranges has been good, as evidenced by the fact that they outsold California on an average of 20¢ per box on the auctions. According to commercial advice from California, shipments from that State will be decidedly heavier from now on. So the next 10 days or two weeks, before the heavier shipments of California oranges begin to arrive, is Florida's opportunity to ship fairly heavy.

"Grapefruit auction prices also advanced 10¢ over the previous week. Some 397 cars sold at $2.50, compared with 375 at $2.40 a week ago. However, this advance is liable to be short-lived, as shipments during the latter part of the week were very heavy and the supplies on the receiving markets will be liberal. If the shipments this present week continue heavy, the market price will probably decline. The Clearing House is endeavoring to have its shippers cut down their output of grapefruit this week, in hopes of relieving the situation."

5a. STORAGE HOLDINGS OF APPLES IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, sent the following report, which is CONFIDENTIAL so far as holdings by varieties are concerned. The only figures which may be used by members of our Division, if desired, are the totals. Figures by varieties must not be published in any way.

APPLE HOLDINGS BY VARIETIES, MARCH 1:

	WENATCHEE		YAKIMA	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Winesaps	1890	2065	2570	2469
Jonathans	-	4	2	5
Delicious	563	189	482	152
Spitzenburgs	13	-	10	2
Rome Beautys	137	58	566	256
Staymans	25	26	18	30
Black Bens	15	15	6	6
Yellow Newtowns	104	31	297	68
W.W. Pearmains	44	9	14	5
Black Twigs	14	6	14	20
Ark. Blacks	82	40	152	76
Ben Davis	4	4	-	-
Miscellaneous	9	15	12	9
	2900	2462	4143	3098
Ranch		25		
		2487		

SIX YEARS' COMPARISON:

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
WENATCHEE						
Cold Storage	1261	1390	1794	1781	2236	2855
Common Storage	287	50	218	191	251	45
	1548	1440	2012	1972	2487	2900
YAKIMA						
Cold Storage	3700	2684	2667	2571	3086	4117
Common Storage	141	50	87	123	12	26
	3841	2734	2754	2694	3098	4143

APPLES IN STORAGE MARCH 1:

Medford District - - - - - - - - - 127 cars
Hood River District - - - - - - - - 250 "
Spokane District - - - - - - - - - 40 "

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. INTERESTING CROP NOTES FROM IMPERIAL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

On March 7, A. E. Prugh wrote the following letter from Brawley. He has since changed his headquarters to Phoenix, Arizona, to report the lettuce market in that State:-

"We had a fairly heavy frost last night (March 6) and another one is predicted for tonight. Some damage was done to tender cantaloupe vines, from which the paper caps had only been removed for a day or two. This may not affect the yield very much, but will set them back probably 10 days. Tomatoes have been damaged probably 10% to 15%, and there may be about 10% damage to peas in low spots.

"Two weeks ago, the shippers claimed that 'the lettuce was not here.' However, this week's shipments will average about 200 cars per day. The psychology of believing future shipments would be light has held up the cash-track market, as most eastern markets have not been excited about the price. As is usually the case when prices warrant, the acreage is always heavy enough here in the Valley to enable shippers to get plenty of lettuce. On account of the advance in price two weeks ago, shippers apparently went into fields that might have been abandoned, and as a result city markets are now reporting the arrival of considerable ordinary-quality stock. It appears now that shipments might average 150 daily next week, and this will not give the eastern markets a chance to clean-up before Arizona starts, as they expect 50 cars a day from Phoenix by the 16th.

"Even though prices have been fairly good the past month, most shippers will lose plenty of money in this deal, for, up to date, yields have been very light, probably not over 75 packed-out crates to the acre. Some of the market men have no doubt noticed the 'Bright' brand commanding a premium. One shipper at El Centro has endeavored this season to pack all of this lettuce U.S. No. 1, and, while in doing so he has thrown away pelnty of lettuce, his brand has sold for about 25¢ per crate more than the others here at shipping-point. The greater part of his lettuce has been sold through the auction and this is the reason that some auction sales of U.S. No. 1 have been so far above private sales. He has been the keystone of the auction, and last night, when he sold all of his cars at private sale, only two cars were bid on at the auction. The present cool weather will cause better solidity and make more marketable lettuce. Out of 197 cars shipped yesterday, 91 were inspected and 24 graded U.S. No. 1 and 27 graded 85% U.S. No. 1.

"For the past couple of weeks, two or three cars of anise have been moving daily. Practically all of it has been going to New York. I noticed the market there was as high as $4.50 on lettuce crates February 21, but yesterday it was only $2.50. The two shippers moving anise have been somewhat in doubt just how to pack it, to get best results.

"For several days, there has been no demand for carrots. Shippers have preferred to roll the cars rather than take the $1 per crate offered. One important company for several days has been selling peas of the Alderman variety for $4 f.o.b. cash-track, which is at least a 50¢ premium over the Telephones. Two cars of asparagus have been moving daily, but growers are of the opinion that movement from the north will get too heavy to make the deal profitable. Present cool weather will curtail harvesting here. The strawberry movement has been light, on account of the rains in February."

2b. FURTHER REPORT ON CROP-DAMAGE IN RIO GRANDE VALLEY

C. D. Schoolcraft, who is substituting for W. D. Googe, at the Brownsville, Texas, field-station, wrote as follows in a letter of March 15:-

"The Texas cabbage market has taken on a little firmer tone the past couple of days and some shippers are expecting a little improvement in prices next week. Prices to growers are mostly around $4 per ton, with some best stock bringing as high as $4.50-$5. However, at these prices only the best of the crop is being bought. Ordinary stock is being discounted or not purchased at all. Shipments are running around 60 cars per day from the Valley and 20 to 30 cars from the Corpus Christi district. With favorable market conditions, these could be increased considerably, and this fact rather chills any hopes that growers and shippers may have for any sharp price-increases.

"Combined damage from frost and blight to the potato crop has been serious. Blight has probably been the more serious of the two factors, however. Estimates of the Valley potato movement for this year are now being placed at 1,200 to 1,500 cars, as against 3,000 cars last season. A car or two a day is now being shipped, but this is stock from seriously-blighted fields and is very immature and sizing 1½ to 2 inches. It is feared by some that this may have a serious effect on the later market for potatoes. The movement will not get under way actively until late this month or early in April.

"Frost damage to beans was serious although spotted. Damage ranges from practically nothing in some fields to complete loss in others. A few express lots have been shipped from Brownsville, and these express shipments will likely increase somewhat this coming week. The market remains draggy for beets and carrots, with prices holding at about the same levels."

3b. RECENT NEWS ON SANFORD CELERY, ESCAROLE AND BEANS

J. B. Owens sent the following letter from Sanford, Florida, on March 16:-

"Shipments of celery from the Sanford-Oviedo district during the past week were slightly heavier, the daily average being approximately 65 cars. The indications are that shipments for this week will be in about the same volume as last week.

"While quality of the stock harvested recently was generally good, there was some slight damage to the tops by frost. Pink rot is still prevalent in most fields, but weather conditions have not been favorable for its development and shippers report most cars as arriving in good condition. While the acreage of late celery is much heavier this season than last, the outcome of these plantings is uncertain. At this time there appears to be a heavy percentage of seeders in this late crop, which means a considerable decrease in the expected yield.

"There has been very little change in the f.o.b. market during the week except for a slight discount in prices on the large sizes. The demand for 6-10 dozen's has been fairly good, but 2½-4 dozen's have been draggy. Toward the end of the week there was a slight improvement in the outside demand, and, if shipments continue as expected, it looks as if the market will take on a firmer tone.

"There was a slight increase in the shipments of escarole from this district, but there seems to be practically no demand for this commodity.

(continued over)

In some instances receivers are guaranteeing charges, but in most cases the shipments are rolled on consignment. The frosts of last week did very little damage to young beans in this section. Most fields received a temporary set-back in growth, but they will overcome this with a few days of real warm weather."

4b. YAKIMA VALLEY POTATO OUTPUT FALLING SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

T. R. Hall wrote as follows in a letter of March 14 from the Seattle office:-

"A very quiet, unimpressive closing period of several weeks duration is in prospect for Yakima Valley potato growers. A sketchy review of the potato situation, which has prevailed in the western States during the 1930-1931 season, should disclose the main reason for the unsatisfactory condition in the Yakima Valley:

"Idaho had shipped more than 20,000 cars of potatoes by the end of February, which is somewhat in excess of the total movement for the 1929-1930 season. Distribution has not only been heavy in the eastern markets but also in California. San Francisco, for instance, used nearly twice as many carloads of Idaho potatoes during the month of February, 1931, as for the corresponding month in 1930.

"Oregon's shipments through February were also much heavier than for the entire 1929-1930 season, and the Klamath Falls district is advantageously located to place liberal quantities of potatoes not only in the San Francisco market but also into the smaller cities of northern California. The Klamath Falls section is a serious contender for markets which usually have looked to the Washington districts for supplies.

"Laboring under these conditions, the Yakima Valley shippers have found serious inroads being made in the markets which they have been able to at least partially control during previous years. As a result, the potato shipments from Washington for the 1930-1931 season to date are more than a thousand cars below the movement to the corresponding date one year ago. And the total estimated production for Washington was 1,300,000 bushels in excess of that for 1929.

"Reports from some quarters are that the percentage of merchantable stocks in this State is somewhat below earlier expectations and, if these reports are well-founded, the State's shipments may not be so heavy as the earlier reports indicated. However, it is more commonly recognized that, if the market prices justified, a much larger proportion of our remaining stocks could be shipped. When operators can go to the farmers' cellars and buy stock for $5-$6 per ton, culls and rotten potatoes out but with the buyer furnishing the labor and materials, the natural tendency is to cull out aplenty. It is reported that some buyers are paying $10-$12 sacked per ton, f.o.b. cash to grower, for stock intended to meet the requirements of Washington Combination grade, but the actual inspection shows that the stock purchased grades U.S. No. 1 or nearly approaches that standard. There are also some reports that the remaining stocks of U.S. No. 1 grade and 'bakers' are scarce, with the result that the tone of the market is firm."

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE OFFICE BUILDING OF THE U.S.D.A. IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY DISCONTINUED, BY REASON OF SOME FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY AFFECTING THE CONTRACTOR.

5b. MAINE POTATO MARKET FIRM

W. D. Hull sent the following information from Presque Isle in a letter of March 16:-

"The heavy snowfall of last Monday (March 9) practically eliminated all hauling of potatoes in northern Aroostook County until Wednesday forenoon. This gave the shippers an opportunity to dispose of loaded cars which were unsold at the close of business the preceding Saturday, thus putting the local market in better shape for any business that might be had later in the week.

"Considerable stock which was still owned by the growers but in storage at shippers' warehouses changed hands during the fore part of the week at prices which were equivalent to the street price then being paid for any potatoes that were brought in from farm storages. The general tone of the street market was firm throughout the week; local buyers berated one another for paying prices which would have a strengthening effect on the market, but little genuine effort was made to reduce the street price. Sufficient potatoes were bought each day at 5¢-10¢ above the general price to keep the farmers in a turmoil and make them unwilling to sell for prices which were near the bottom of the range. The firm condition of the local f.o.b. market made it difficult for brokers to place orders at prices which the city buyers would readily pay.

"The seed market held about steady on Green Mountains, but what few certified Cobblers were sold brought higher prices than before. Selected Cobblers were still in good demand and some sales were reported at prices which were higher than last week. Supplies of selected Cobblers are becoming light, and many shippers think they will clean-up on them this year."

6b. FLORIDA BERRY SHIPMENTS STILL ACTIVE

R. M. Peterson sent the following report on strawberries in a letter of March 17 from Plant City:-

"Florida strawberries have staged a comeback with 43 cars, including reefers, out yesterday. Somewhat lighter shipments are expected today and for the next two days, but if the weather continues warm and clear the movement should be comparatively heavy by Saturday, with a total movement this week estimated at 175 cars. Some shippers feel that the output this week will be the peak of the season, but others look for a slightly heavier movement next week. It is all a weather proposition and it is still possible for the plants to show their heaviest production the first part of April, but I cannot find many who will agree with me in this contention. Quality has improved rapidly and today's berries are looking fine.

"Strawberry prices at shipping-point dropped from 17½¢ per pint on Monday to 14¢ on Wednesday but by Saturday (March 14) were back to 17½¢, with an average of 16½¢ per pint for the week. Yesterday's prices were slightly weaker around 16 1/8¢ per pint, and I look for lower prices today. Light frost this morning appears to have damaged beans and peppers slightly but did not affect strawberries."

6½b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

The following summaries of field deals have been issued this week:-
"Marketing North Carolina White Potatoes, 1930 Season," by R. E. Keller.
"Marketing Southeastern Watermelons, 1930 Season," by R. Maynard Peterson.

7b. FOUR CARLOADS OF CANARY ISLAND TOMATOES ARRIVE IN NEW YORK

An interesting letter regarding imported tomatoes was received from E. R. Biddle, of the New York office, under date of March 14:-

"The heaviest single shipment of tomatoes from the Canary Islands ever unloaded in New York was received this week. There were approximately 3,800 packages, which we have listed as four carloads.

"The tomatoes were packed in boxes and wicker baskets. The wicker baskets were the shape of a small clothes-basket with a cover. The boxes were fairly heavy and tight. The tomatoes were wrapped and packed with excelsior. The boxes were lined with paper and were almost air-tight. Although the baskets were lined and packed in the same fashion, they had the advantage of more ventilation. The boxes held approximately 15 pounds net, while the baskets ranged from 22 to 24 pounds net. The boxes were strapped together in 2's, 3's and 4's.

"The tomatoes were all ripe and those in the baskets were generally in good condition, but the stock in the boxes showed a wide range in condition. Most of the tomatoes were about the size of the 180 pack. The quality was generally very good. Baskets sold from $2.50 to $2.75, while the boxes ranged from 50¢ to $2, mostly $1-$1.50.

"The sponsor of this shipment states that, if market conditions warrant, other shipments will follow, but that only the larger-sized stock will be included, as they have a good market for the smaller-sized tomatoes in the European markets."

8b. COLORADO POTATO PRICES ADVANCE

Bryce Morris wrote as follows from the Denver office in a letter of March 14:-

"Potato shipments from the San Luis Valley were fairly liberal this week. Prices to growers advanced, with dealers paying 70¢-75¢ for No. 1 Brown Beautys and 90¢ on most Red McClures, with a few at 95¢. The final movement from the Valley will probably be around 10,000 cars, since most dealers and shippers estimate approximately 1,000 cars remaining. Northern Colorado shipments have been liberal the past week, reaching the highest volume of the season on Wednesday, March 11, when 53 cars were loaded. Prices were firm to slightly stronger in the Greeley section also, with dealers generally paying 60¢-65¢ on Colorado Grade Standard Rurals or partly-graded stock, with No. 2's at 55¢. This section still has an abundance of potatoes to move, with estimates varying from 1,500 to 2,000 cars. Western Slope potato shipments have been light, and possibly 1,200 cars remain to be moved.

"Onion shipments from the Arkansas Valley were slightly heavier the past week. It is difficult to get an accurate line on the available supplies remaining for shipment, but it would now seem that the final movement may reach 1,300 cars. A good demand has developed for large-sized Valencias and the prices were slightly stronger there this week. A slightly better demand was in evidence for the smaller-sized stock also, but prices remained steady on this size. Dealers paid farmers 90¢ per cwt. on large Valencias and around 35¢ on small stuff. Since the season is rapidly drawing to a close and very few cars remain to be shipped, we plan to discontinu

the Arkansas Valley onion f.o.b. report on Friday, March 20. The Western Slope holdings are slightly heavier than at this time last season and we will probably continue the general onion report and the Western Slope f.o.b. until around the first of April. Farmers on the Western Slope were receiving 20¢ per cwt. for bulk Yellow Danvers."

9b. MOVEMENT OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA VEGETABLES LIGHT

The following letter of March 14 came from V. H. Nicholson at Miami:-

"While the weather has been rather cool all week, there has been little additional killing-damage to southern Florida vegetables. The temperature dropped low enought to cause frost three nights this week, but winds and clouds prevented the formation of frost in all except a few localities.

"Shipments of beans, peppers and tomatoes still continue light. The tomato crop was quite seriously damaged by the rains a week ago, especially in Broward and Collier counties. While the damage was much less in Dade County, the crop in all sections has been retarded and it now appears that yields will be light and that the crop movement will be much lighter than was at first anticipated. Movement will remain rather light until the first or second week in April. If the weather is favorable, the season will extend until the second or third week of May.

"Most shipments have been of rather ordinary quality and the tomatoes small in size. Prices have varied widely according to quality, but the demand for good stock has been fairly active. On Thursday, one car of good quality stock packed in crates sold at $4.50 for fancy count. Yesterday, a few cars of fairly-good quality packed in lugs sold at $2.50 for the 6x6 pack and at $2 for the 6x7 size. These sales were on a cash-track basis. A few cars of rather ordinary stock packed in crates have sold around $3 for fancy count and $2 for choice count, on a usual-terms basis.

"Shipments of beans are in about the same volume as last week, with prices about $1 lower than a week ago. Yesterday at Pompano, most sales of Bountifuls were in the range of $4-$5, with a few good lots as high as $6. The wind a few days ago scarred many of the beans, and quality of most shipments has been rather ordinary.

"Prices for peppers have advanced quite sharply during the week. Yesterday at Pompano, most sales were at a range of $3-$3.25 for fancy and $2-$2.25 for choice. Shipments have been much lighter, but there has been a tendency on the part of growers to pick all stock that it is possible to ship, and, as a consequence, quality has been below the average of the last few weeks."

10b. THE FLORIDA CANNED GRAPEFRUIT MARKET

The following statement is quoted from "Facts in the Food Markets," for March 14:-

"Florida market making slow progress in the earnest effort by established canners to restore stability. Pressure of fresh fruit supply continues to discourage canners and distributors. Large distributors continue to have confidence in the record volume that can be sold between June and November but are slow in placing their requirements because of uncertainty as to price levels. Total Florida production now slightly above 2,000,000 cases, with indications that it will exceed 2,500,000 cases."

11b. MICHIGAN ONIONS AND POTATOES DOING MUCH BETTER

R. E. Keller wrote as follows from Grand Rapids in a letter dated March 14:-

"The western Michigan f.o.b. onion market witnessed quite an improvement during the past week, prices strengthening 10¢-15¢ on the 50-pound bags and 20¢-25¢ on the 100-pound sacks. Today, U.S. No. 1 yellows on a usual-terms basis are moving freely at 40¢-45¢ for the 50-pound sacks and 75¢-85¢ for the 100-pound sacks. This upward change has not yet been reflected so much in the terminal markets, where track supplies have been ample, but has been occasioned more by speculation because of recent checks of the available supply of late-crop onions. Recent surveys in Indiana and Michigan indicate that the quantity of merchantable onions is smaller than was thought. In Michigan the volume of good U.S. No. 1 stock is fast decreasing, as storage losses have been heavy, especially in cellars, barns, and other improvised storage-places. Late surveys point to about 500 or 600 cars of onions of merchantable quality remaining. To date, shipments total 4,557 cars, so the final movement likely will exceed the 5,000-car mark.

"The sizes of Michigan onions this season have been unusually large, and this is one of the factors making the yields so heavy. Shippers estimate that the crop, taken as a whole, would run well over 80% 2 inches and larger. Most orders have been filled on a 75% 2 inches and up basis. The f.o.b. returns have been so low and the sizes uniformly large enough, so that at no time during the season has the price-range between sizes been large. As a matter of fact, most of the shipments under 75% 2 inches and up specification have had to be consigned.

"Michigan potato shippers report that practically all the potatoes held in their warehouses have been sold and shipped and that what stock remains is almost entirely in the growers' hands. Michigan farmers can see how extremely short their crop is and are doggedly holding for better prices, whereas the shippers have sold-out their holdings and are filling orders from daily purchases. The rail shipments from Michigan possibly show less than 50% of the potato movement, as the roads have been open most of the winter and truckers have been actively operating all season. The f.o.b. prices, Cadillac basis, are reported around $1.35-$1.45 per 100 pounds, which is an advance of 20¢ during the week."

12b. RIO GRANDE VALLEY CITRUS INDUSTRY SURVEYED

More than 5,000,000 citrus trees were set in orchard form in the lower Rio Grande Valley up to July, 1929, according to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in a report of a survey of the industry, in Bulletin 419, just issued. The Station says that "the proportion of the acreage which is being set to grapefruit indicates that growers and shippers have found the grapefruit to be the most profitable type of citrus fruit for this region. Sweet oranges are apparently not so well adapted to local conditions as grapefruit but are being grown to a limited extent. Until a variety of sweet orange is developed or introduced which will combine early maturity and good keeping-quality with excellence of flavor and prolific bearing capacity, this industry will not keep pace with grapefruit production."

13b. HAULINGS OF NEW YORK PRODUCTS REDUCED BY SNOWSTORM

The following letter of March 17 was received from R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office:-

"The movement of most products stored on western New York farms was greatly reduced this week, due to country roads being blocked by one of the heaviest snowstorms in March during the past 15 years. Some of the main highways were also blocked, and in the Skaneateles section of central New York bus service was discontinued for some time. Those commodities stored in commercial storages along railroad sidings continued to move in a moderate way.

"The movement of potatoes slowed-up slightly, although it was still heavier than most dealers expected since farmers were unable to draw during most of the week. Prices advanced 5¢ to 10¢, with U.S. No. 1 Round Whites in 150-pound sacks bringing mostly around $2.20 yesterday, compared with $2-$2.15 a week ago. Seed stock is beginning to move in heavier volume and this accounts for the shipments holding-up as well as they did since the country roads were blocked by snow.

"A better demand for onions prevailed this week. Some f.o.b. sales were made as high as $1 per 100-pound sack. Many dealers were unable to obtain stock enough to fill their orders, as most owners were holding for still higher prices.

"The demand for cabbage showed a slight improvement, but prices advanced only about $1 per ton on sacked stock. The daily movement is light. New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore seem to be taking three-fourths of the output. Total shipments to date are 11,500 cars, and the shipping-season is practically over. Unless something unusual happens and prices advance, we expect to discontinue our reports on cabbage within a week or 10 days.

"Demand and trading in carrots has been very light. Some stock is being consigned and some cars rolled on previous contracts to soup factories.

"Apples continue to move in a fairly moderate volume. Approximately 40% of the cars rolling are for the export trade. The domestic demand is improving slightly, and dealers report they are unable to obtain stock at prices offered by the buyers. The f.o.b. market held about steady, although most dealers are holding for higher prices on the better grades of fruit."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	L. L. Thomas H. S. Duncan	Pears* Apples Onions Carrots Cabbage Celery* Peaches* Grapes* Potatoes	Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 8 Sept. 23 Oct. 6	Nov. 3* May 29 May 1 May 1 Mar. 28 Jan. 10* Oct. 4* Oct. 29* May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House	894	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Mar. 28
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	June 6
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples* Onions Potatoes	Oct. 24 Oct. 24 Oct. 24	Nov. 7* Mar. 28 May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans Peppers Tomatoes	Nov. 17 Dec. 19 Jan. 16	Apr. 1 May 1 May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr. Vegs.	Jan. 5 Jan. 5	Apr. 1 Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage Spinach* Beets Carrots Beans Potatoes Onions Tomatoes	Jan. 5 Jan. 5 Jan. 5 Jan. 6 Mar. 16 Mar. 16 Mar. 23 Apr. 27	May 15 Mar. 7* May 15 May 15 May 15 May 15 Apr. 30 May 29
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Mar. 18	Apr. 18
HAMMOND, LA.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 25	May 15

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

B. E. Surry in Chicago W. F. Cox in San Francisco (301 Wells Fargo Bldg.)

W. D. Googe on military leave in Texas

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. CREASING OF CITRUS FRUIT A GRADE DEFECT

The question has been raised as to whether creasing of citrus fruit is a factor of condition or factor of grade. At one time it was reported that creasing developed after the fruit was picked, both in storage and in transit. Upon our request, Dr. Fulton, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, arranged for his men in Florida to do some experimental work in this connection and the following telegraphica report to him should be of interest to all inspectors:-

"Experiments do not show increase of creasing after fruit is picked and packed. Injury evident when fruit is picked, and careful grading can eliminate it. Slightly-creased fruit held in cold-storage eleven days showed no indications of further creasing and none after removal and holding."

Refer to the U.S. grade specifications as to the amount of creasing allowed in different grades of Florida and California fruit.

2c. IDENTIFYING MARKS HIGHLY IMPORTANT IN CASES OF APPEAL INSPECTION

Recently the reinspection of a car of potatoes, which at first appeared as having been certified at shipping-point as U.S. No. 2, showed the grade as U.S. No. 1 in a receiving-market. Comparison of the brands on the sacks clearly indicated that the shipping-point certificate did not cover the same lot of potatoes which was inspected by the receiving-point inspector. At shipping-point, the car contained potatoes in 100-pound sacks, branded "U.S. No. 2," but when it arrived at destination it contained potatoes in 25-pound sacks, branded "U.S. No. 1." Raising the grade of a shipment from U.S. No. 2 to U.S. No. 1 on an appeal inspection would be very unusual, and in this particular case a serious error would have been made. The check-up of the grade-marks seemed to furnish conclusive evidence that the car was reloaded, after inspection, with another lot of potatoes which was not inspected at shipping-point.

It seems desirable to check-up on brands or grade-marks, when reinspection indicates the possibility of a reversal, and in sending wires giving results of appeal inspection to the Washington office it would be well for all inspectors to mention the brand or grade-marks, especially when the lot inspected shows grade-marks which are not in accord with the report of shipping-point inspection received from Washington or a shipping-point supervisor. For example:"Appeal inspection FGE 9217 (brand) Wisconsin potatoes hundred fifty pound sacks tagged U.S. One shows twelve percent grade defects second growth cuts scab advise." A wire of this kind gives the information necessary to decide whether the inspection should be handled as an appeal or as a new inspection.

3c. FEE FOR INSPECTION OF COCONUTS

The $5.00 fee for inspection of peanuts, pecans and other nuts applies to cases where samples are drawn and analyzed in the office. Since coconuts can be inspected in the car and in the same way as fruits and vegetables, the proper fee for inspection is $4.00 per carload and $2.50 when the quantity involved is half a carload or less.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. SENTENCES IMPOSED UNDER PRODUCE AGENCY ACT

Recently Joseph O. Segari, formerly engaged in business in New Orleans, La., appeared before the United States District Court and entered pleas of guilty as charged in three informations filed under the provisions of the Produce Agency Act. He was thereupon sentenced to serve four months in the New Orleans House of Detention in each case, the sentences to run concurrently. Two of these cases involved carlot consignments of watermelons from Florida, for which fraudulent accounts of sale were rendered, and the third case involved a carlot consignment of cabbage from Wisconsin, for which no accounting or payment was made.

On March 10 last J. E. Schley, trading and doing business at Baltimore, Md., as Schley & Richardson, appeared before the United States District Court in that city and entered a plea of guilty on the two counts in an information filed under the provisions of the Produce Agency Act. He introduced three character witnesses, who testified in his behalf. He likewise presented evidence to show that he had made full restitution to the consignors. After hearing the testimony of the character witnesses, as well as that of the representative of the Department who made the investigation in the case, the court sentenced Schley to pay a fine of $100 on each of the two counts, or a total of $200. The case against Schley involved two carlot consignments of watermelons from South Carolina, for which fraudulent accountings were rendered.

A record for prompt disposition was established in the Schley case. The papers in this case were referred to the Department of Justice on January 31, 1931, and the case was closed March 10. No other case thus far prosecuted under the Produce Agency Act even remotely approaches this prompt disposition.

The Assistant District Attorney who handled the Schley case complimented the investigators upon the manner in which they prepared the case for prosecution and expressed the opinion that the defendant would never have pleaded guilty if a possible chance had been available for defense.

2e. PRODUCE JOBBERS MUST BE LICENSED UNDER FEDERAL LAW

Many jobbers who have not applied for Government licenses under the terms of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, in the belief that the law does not affect them because their purchases are made from local receivers of fruits and vegetables, must be licensed in the opinion of the Solicitor of the Department of Agriculture.

There are instances, says the Solicitor, when jobbers may be construed to be doing an interstate business in fruits and vegetables even though the financial transaction is between the jobber and a local receiver, as in a case where the receiver has obtained produce from producers or shippers in another State.

In view of this opinion the Department urges all firms or individuals doing a jobbing business in fruits and vegetables to make application for licenses under the P.A.C. Act, enclosing a check for $10 payable to the Disbursing Clerk of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman is to be in New York City on Tuesday, March 24, to confer with interested parties concerning the possibility of an inspection of arrivals for condition, similar to that handled in Cleveland under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal.

Wm. E. Lewis is expected back from Florida today. On Monday, he plans to proceed to the College of Agriculture at Orono, Maine, where he will participate in the program for Farm and Home Week. He is scheduled to give an address on Wednesday morning on the subject: "Grading Raw Products for Canneries." On his return trip, Mr. Lewis will stop for a few days in western New York to confer with cherry canners regarding grades for that product.

After being on frulough since last May, H. V. DeMott returned to duty in the Regulatory Branch of the F. & V. Division on March 5. He left Washington on March 15 for Boston, where he examined 1918 Government wool records in connection with cases of alleged excess-profits on wool during the war period. He returned to his desk on Wednesday.

We are glad to welcome back into the service T. C. Curry, formerly in charge of our market-news and inspection work in Atlanta. Mr. Curry resigned in October, 1925, to enter business in Atlanta. He has been reinstated to the Federal service and will report for duty in Louisville, Ky., on March 23, after which he will come to Washington for a conference with Bureau officials on the P.A.C. Act.

R. L. Sutton has left Rochester, N.Y., where he has been in charge of the market-reporting work since last autumn. He stopped at the Washington office today, enroute to Hammond, La., where he will operate the news service on strawberries, beginning about March 25. A. L. Thomas and H. S. Duncan will continue to issue market reports at Rochester until the close of the season.

R. B. Landrum has left the New York City inspection office and is traveling by automobile to Tulsa, Okla., where he will opma new office of the Inspection Service and the Regulatory Branch about April 1. He expects to reach Tulsa by March 25.

Among visitors to the Washington office this past week were J. G. Scott, of our Philadelphia office, and J. H. Meek, Director of the Virginia Division of Markets, at Richmond. Mr. Scott conferred with local officials on matters pertaining to the news service and Mr. Meek conferred regarding inspection matters.

The Brawley, Calif., field station of the Market News Service will be continued into May by State representatives, although A. E. Prugh left there last Monday and proceeded to Phoenix, to open the field station on Arizona spring lettuce. For this reason, Brawley has been dropped from the list of Federal field offices, as published in the D.L.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Congratulations are extended to W. C. Lynn, of the Trenton, N.J., inspection office, and to Mrs. Alice E. Boyle, of the Pittsburgh office. Mr. and Mrs. Lynn are the proud parents of a daughter, Joyce Amelia, born on March 14, and Mr. and Mrs. Boyle are the happy parents of a son, born March 7. Mrs. Boyle has been on leave without pay since January 1. She is perhaps better remembered as Miss Alice Buxton.

L. G. C. Peirce, of the St. Louis inspection office, has recovered from his recent illness, and W. A. Hilgeson, who substituted for him, has now returned to Chicago.

By mistake, the first car of potatoes to move from Louisiana in several months was mentioned in the Weekly Market Review of March 17 as "a car of new potatoes." J. W. Coleman, of the New Orleans office, has advised us that this car was second-crop and not new potatoes.

With reference to products inspected at shipping points in Louisiana, as shown in the list of inspection offices in the D.L., Hunter S. Moles, the Supervising Inspector, reports that work on sweet potatoes is about finished for the season. Strawberry inspections will begin about March 25 and mixed vegetables will continue until June 15. Potatoes and beans should begin around April 25.

W. L. Jackson, a cooperative employee in the Los Angeles office, last May prepared a radio talk which was broadcast over Station KQW at San Francisco and was later published in several trade magazines. In this address, Mr. Jackson discussed the transportation of perishables by truck into Los Angeles. Recently the Los Angeles office received a clipping from the February 9 issue of "Motor Transport," published in London, England, containing this article by Mr. Jackson.

A line like this ↗ means "The End" of the Division Letter.
If your copy ever fails to have such a line on the last page, your D.L. is incomplete.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 13 March 27, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ARGENTINA FRUIT-IMPORTING REGULATIONS

Below is quoted a telegram which was sent over the leased-wire on March 17 regarding additional regulations imposed by Argentina on imports of fruit. The information is rather vague and indefinite and it probably will be elaborated at a later date. The telegram follows:-

"Following cablegram received March 16 by State Department from Ambassador Bliss at Buenos Aires: 'Regulating importation of fresh fruit, decree published today prescribes that apples, pears and certain citrus fruits be wrapped in waterproof paper, stamped with name of producer and country of origin, and be packed in standard container. Importation of fruit in bulk prohibited; importation of barrel apples thus precluded. Apples and pears may be imported from May 1 to December 15. This provision appears to debar apples from New Zealand, Africa and Chile and in part from Canada. Decree effective July 1 next.'"

2a. A GOOD REPORT ON HORSERADISH

Under date of March 21, the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates issued a sheet showing the production of horseradish in the United States for three years, 1928 to 1930; also the imports of this product for seven years, 1923 to 1929.

United States production during 1929 was estimated at 19,049,000 pounds, valued at $5.16 per 100 pounds. The crop in 1930 was figured at 12,114,000 pounds. About 60% of this is credited to the St. Louis district in Missouri and southern Illinois. Imports in 1929 were at their highest point in recent years, a total of 2,855,398 pounds arriving from several countries; but nearly 99% of the imports came from Germany. The recently revised tariff schedule has placed a duty of 3¢ per pound on horseradish in the natural state and 35% ad valorem on the prepared product.

Copies of this report can be obtained directly from the Truck Crop Section of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates in Washington.

3a. A SUMMARY ON CALIFORNIA ASPARAGUS

Recently the San Francisco office distributed a summary on the 1930 season for California asparagus. Authors are C. J. Hansen and O. W. Holmes. This report covers 24 pages and copies can be had from the San Francisco office.

BOTH ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION of strawberries in five early States as a group appear to be about one-fourth greater than the five-year average.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. FREIGHT RATES REDUCED ON YAKIMA VALLEY POTATOES

Interesting news is contained in the following letter of March 21 from T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office:-

"The Yakima Valley potato market is showing first signs of recuperation from many weeks of inactivity. The decline, which started early last October, was rather abrupt and the situation has shown an improvement with equal abruptness, for the advance has been confined to the comparatively short period of a week. Just what may occur next week is problematical.

"Perhaps the biggest factor in bringing about the improvement in prices is a reduction in freight rates from Yakima Valley points into the Dakotas, eastern Missouri, Illinois points and other eastern territory. Beginning Monday, March 23, a rate of 90¢ will apply and supersede the current range of $1.05-$1.10 per cwt. This rate has been introduced to place the Yakima territory on a parity with the southern Idaho territory.

"Reports of continued heavy shrinkage continue to reach this office, and indications are that 30% to 50% of the present holdings will grade U.S. No. 2 or culls. Some rather large blocks of potatoes have been sold to middlewestern interests, on the condition that the reduced freight rates were approved. Under the circumstances, it is the opinion of local dealers that the Valley stocks will rapidly dwindle during the remaining few weeks of this season. The offerings of U.S. No. 1 potatoes are hard to locate, according to buyers, and the market for well-graded Washington combinations has advanced from around $12 sacked per ton early in the week to as high as $17 for the best packs.

"Warm rains have fallen in western Washington almost daily the past week, and eastern Washington has enjoyed mild partly-cloudy weather, with enough sunshine so that spring operations may go forward with promptness.

"The Puyallup-Sumner outdoor rhubarb is replacing the hothouse product, which has had a good play on the markets since January 1. Quality of the outdoor product is excellent, and growers are in a position to bid for their share of business from eastern points.

"With the prevalence of current weather conditions in the Yakima Valley, asparagus may begin to move in a small way from the Kennewick district sometime this week. Last year two cars were billed from that point before April 1 and this record may be equaled again this season. Liberal quantities of asparagus are reaching Seattle from California, but the southern product may expect a rather short-lived season unless unforeseen circumstances develop.

"A few crates of Puget Sound cauliflower reached the Seattle market early this week. The acreage of spring cauliflower in this area is not large; nevertheless sufficient land is devoted to its production to practically take care of the local demand. Practically all growers have completed the transplanting of the first crop of Iceberg lettuce to the fields and are anticipating an early season."

CALIFORNIA expects an exceptionally large crop of spring lettuce, most of which will be ready for market during May. The crop-forecast indicates a total of 4,648,000 crates, or fully 50% more than last spring.

2b. PEAK MOVEMENT OF FLORIDA BERRIES OCCURRED LAST SATURDAY

In view of the fact that strawberries have now begun to move from Louisiana, Texas and southern California, the following letter from R. M. Peterson about Florida berries is of particular interest. It was written from Plant City on March 24:-

"Florida strawberry shipments established a new record last Saturday, with 50 cars moved. This is not only the peak day for this season but for all past seasons. It is true that in 1929 there were 59 cars shipped on both February 28 and March 1, but that was before the inauguration of the carlot express service, with resultant heavier loadings. Saturday's movement, reduced to freight equivalent, was 10 cars in excess of the peak movement in 1929. This does not include 7 cars which were loaded on Saturday but which did not move until Sunday. Rain Saturday morning, followed by a cool cloudy Sunday, reduced Monday's shipments to 36 cars, but a slightly heavier movement is expected today, and the total shipments for this week are estimated at 175 cars, which is approximately 35 cars lighter than last week. The shipments for next week will, undoubtedly, be lighter, totaling around 125 cars. The plants in many fields are getting old and are now showing light yields, but some late plantings are heavily set with green berries and, with favorable weather, they may yield well for nearly a month.

"Quality of the berries was very good last week, and some shippers state that the berries shipped last Friday and Saturday were, as a whole, the finest that they had ever shipped. The quality this week is not quite as fine, because of the rain Saturday, and more berries have had to be culled out. Shipping-point prices continued gradually downward last week, reaching the low average of 10½¢ per pint on Saturday. Yesterday's recovery to 11¼¢ was unexpected and difficult to account for, in view of the heavy movement and generally weak condition of the terminal markets.

"The Starke-Lawtey section shipped a few berries in reefers last week but does not expect a carload before the last of this week, and it is not likely that this section will ship more than an occasional car for several weeks yet."

3b. WISCONSIN POTATOES ADVANCE AND THEN DECLINE

The first field letter to be received from R. G. Risser is published below. Mr. Risser has been in charge of the Waupaca office recently:-

"A welcome and rather spectacular improvement in the potato market has been an outstanding development of the past week. The advance in prices, which has been especially manifest in central and western producing districts, has been keenly felt in Wisconsin. At Waupaca, prices to growers have jumped 35¢ per cwt. during the week, with shippers displaying frenzied activity to procure supplies. In response to the higher price, shipments have made material increases. Under the influence of the heavy movement, a reaction has been felt, which has slackened the demand and unsettled the market. The incident is an excellent illustration of the effect of price upon movement and the corresponding effect of movement on price."

4b. ARIZONA LETTUCE PROSPECTS

Lettuce production in Arizona this spring is forecast at 1,360,000 crates, or 21% less than last season, because of a large reduction in acreage.

5b. GOOD REPORT ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CELERY

W. L. Jackson, cooperative market-reporter in Los Angeles, sent the following report under date of March 19:-

"The southern California celery market has held steady during the past two weeks, with limited shipping stock available. The Chula Vista district of San Diego County has practically completed harvest and the bulk of shipments from now on will originate in the Venice and Lomita districts of Los Angeles County.

"Loadings have been going out at the rate of 20 to 28 cars per day, and present indications are that movement will continue at about the same volume for the next month. Acreage of southern California is practically the same as last year, with a preliminary estimate of 850 acres.

"Shipments from southern California for the present season have been considerably heavier than those of last year, with a total movement of 4,000 cars to March 14, as against 3,117 to the same date last year and a total of 3,496 for the entire season.

"Demand has been rather slow during the past week, although shippers have been able to keep sold up on their loadings. Carlot sales of 4 to 5-dozen sizes in 24-inch crates, grading 80% U.S. No. 1 or better, have ranged $3-$3.25, with an occasional sale of smaller stock as high as $3.50 on Chula Vista loadings, and Lomita and Venice stock bringing mostly $3 per crate.

"The quality of this year's crop has not been up to the usual standard. Some damage was caused by frost in December and January, growth cracks by rains in February, and some Pink Rot and Late Blight during the latter part of February and continuing in March. At the present time, a few fields are beginning to show seeders."

6b. MICHIGAN ONIONS AND POTATOES SELLING MUCH HIGHER

R. E. Keller sent the following letter from Grand Rapids under date of March 21:-

"Sudden and welcome strength came during the past week to the western Michigan onion market. Strength was injected into the deal largely through depletion in stocks of late onions because of deterioration and through the delay in maturity of the early offerings from Texas. The carlot f.o.b. market on U.S. No. 1 Yellows from Michigan loading points jumped to 95¢-$1.10 on 100-pound sacks, an advance of 20¢-35¢. Michigan's onion shipments now total 4,778 cars, and shippers estimate between 400 and 725 cars yet in storage.

"The potato market also showed striking advances, moving upward in sympathy with the general rise of potato prices. The f.o.b. shipping-point prices, on the Cadillac basis, sacked per cwt. of U.S. No. 1 Russet Rurals, advanced from $1.30-$1.35 a week ago to $1.65-$1.72½ today. Shipments to date total 1,778 cars. This compares with 4,095 cars a year ago. Possibly 15% of last week's shipments were seed stock, going to markets out of the State. Most of the remainder was destined to consuming points in Michigan. Truckers continue to be very active factors, supplying many of the Michigan markets with potatoes."

ALABAMA expects a crop of 7,007,000 quarts of strawberries this spring, or just 200,000 quarts less than in 1930.

7b. TEXAS VEGETABLES IN BETTER POSITION

On March 22, C. D. Schoolcraft wrote as follows from the field station at Brownsville, Texas:-

"The Texas cabbage market strengthened appreciably during the past week. This may largely be accounted for by light shipments during the fore part of the week and also by the diminishing supply of old-crop cabbage. Light showers through the Valley on Monday cut the loadings very sharply until Thursday, and rains in the Corpus Christi section on Sunday stopped all loading during the first four days of the week. However, Thursday and Friday shipments, due to the price advances, had increased to 150 and 182 cars respectively. Closing prices on bulk cabbage last week were $7-$8 and by Friday of this week prices had advanced to $10-$12, with good demand. The heavy shipments of Thursday and Friday caused a slight weakening, so that prices on Saturday were mostly around $10 per ton bulk.

"Bean harvesting is getting under way around Brownsville. The first straight car of the season was shipped Tuesday. However, practically everything is going l.c.l. express and in mixed cars. An increase in movement can be expected by the latter part of this week. Demand has been good for the stock offered and prices have held firmly at $4.50-$4.75 per bushel hamper of stringless beans, f.o.b. usual terms.

"Demand has been rather light on beets and carrots, with prices holding almost unchanged. About a dozen cars a day of each are being shipped.

"Potato movement is very light, with practically all shipments confined to mixed cars. The stock is grading U.S. No. 1, 1½-inch minimum, and is rather immature. Digging will likely get under way in the lower portion of the Valley the latter part of this week."

8b. PRICE-ADVANCES RECORDED FOR COLORADO PRODUCTS

Below are the main parts of a letter of March 21 from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office:-

"In line with other potato producing sections of the United States, Colorado shipping points reported an active demand and much stronger markets the past week. The higher prices induced heavier shipments, with the peak movement reaching 196 cars on Thursday, March 19. The total Colorado movement to Friday night was 15,297 cars, which was only 68 cars short of the final movement last season.

"Prices to growers in the San Luis Valley advanced from 75¢ for Brown Beautys on Monday to a top range of $1-$1.10 the latter part of this week. Red McClures ranged 90¢-$1 on Monday to $1.25 on Friday, with occasional sales reported as high as $1.35. Today's shipments will place the San Luis Valley total over 9,300 cars which compares with 9,046 as the final last season. As usual at this time of the year, many reports are being circulated that remaining stocks in the Valley do not exceed 750 cars. This may be correct, but we believe that around 1,000 cars will move after this week.

"In northern Colorado, the potato movement has been quite heavy and will exceed 3,800 cars with today's shipments, compared with 3,070 for the final last year. Prices to growers advanced sharply in this section also, starting at 60¢-65¢ for Standard Rurals on Monday and advancing to $1 per cwt. by Thursday and Friday of this week, with the peak really Thursday and a weaker tendency noticeable Friday.

(continued over)

"The onion movement from the Arkansas Valley was practically closed this week. Additional shipments may not exceed 25 cars. The seasonal movement to Friday night was 1,256 cars, about one-half the final output of last year. A better demand developed early in the week for Valencia onions and prices were steady to firm. Growers received around 90¢-$1, mostly 90¢ for best three-inch Valencias."

9b. IDAHO POTATO MARKET EXCITED, AS PRICES ADVANCE SHARPLY

The following letter of March 19 was received from L. C. Tate, at Idaho Falls:-

"The potato market was excited at Idaho shipping points on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, due largely to a sharp increase in local cash orders and a sharp rise in the price of April 'futures' at Chicago. Today the market is nervous and unsettled, most dealers feeling they had better wait for terminal market prices to catch up with the price basis established at shipping points. Local prices advanced sharply, Monday's market closing at 75¢-80¢ cash for loaded cars of No. 1 Russets and a strong market at $1.10 developing by Wednesday night.

"Cash trading was supplemented by heavy speculative buying, some of which originated in Idaho and a large part of which came from Chicago. Wire business has been good today, and dealers claim that for the first time this week they are able to sell rolling cars at or above the purchase price established here.

"Farmers have become quite bullish over the situation, feeling that they will eventually get $1 bulk for No. 1's. This condition has tended to put a little backbone into the market today, in spite of the fact that dealers are a bit doubtful and shaky.

"There has been a heavy thaw all over the State during the last 10 days, and country roads are in bad shape. A short spell of rain yesterday added to the handicap. A strong wind has blown today and fields and roads will dry out within 10 days, if such weather continues. Some plowing has already been done in the lower country, where spring is usually a little earlier than up here.

"Dealers believe to some extent that the poor condition of the roads, coupled with the excitement caused among farmers by the rapid advance of prices, will tend to maintain the market long enough to allow the terminal receivers to accept present prices. Some local sentiment is strong enough to expect $1.25 potatoes by the end of this week. The main cause for local uncertainty was the rapid weakening of Chicago 'futures' this morning, a decline of 10¢ occurring during the forenoon.

"We again have a new record for total sales: Including both of the main-crop districts, a few scattering cars at Downey and a few around Salmon, a total of 330 loaded car sales was reported yesterday. Many of these cars were for prompt loading at the seller's convenience, while a fair portion of the sales was on cars that were traded between dealers."

9½b. ADVERTISE THE FIVE NEW INSPECTION OFFICES

On page 210 of this D.L. is a list of new inspection offices, to be opened about April 1. All market and field stations should please run a notice in three consecutive issues of the daily market reports, calling attention to these offices.

10b. RECENT NEWS REGARDING WESTERN NEW YORK CROPS

A. L. Thomas, of the Rochester office, sent the following letter under date of March 24:-

"Mild weather has prevailed throughout western New York during the entire week and on only two nights did the temperature register below freezing. Haulings of produce from growers to country dealers increased rapidly with the opening of the roads, and better prices prevailed on most all commodities. Shipments for the week showed an increase over the previous seven-day period on all crops except apples and carrots.

"The movement of apples to date has been 14,386 cars, as against 7,638 last season to the same time. Rhode Island Greenings are about cleaned up and Baldwin is the main variety now being offered, although there are a few Starks, McIntosh, Gilliflowers and other varieties remaining. There has been a good demand for all classes of fruit this week and prices advanced 25¢-40¢ on the top grades of Baldwins.

"A marked improvement in the potato market occurred this week. Prices advanced 15¢-30¢ on f.o.b. sales and about 10¢ to the growers. There is a feeling of uncertainty among the dealers, as terminal quotations have not advanced as sharply as shipping-point prices. Because the very heavy movement from Maine the past week has certainly reduced stocks in that State, the dealers here believe that there will be a better demand in late April for New York potatoes. Dealers are paying 70¢-75¢ per bushel to the grower, but some growers are holding for higher prices.

"The demand for onions has been very good this week and prices advanced about 10¢ per 100-pound sack. There is a very bullish feeling among the dealers and many of them are holding for higher prices. The holdings in New York State are believed to be about 100 cars less than at this time last year, or around 275 cars. Quality is running fairly good, as most of the poor stock has already moved. The remaining stocks are in good storages and keeping well. The Canastota section is about cleaned up and the supplies remaining are in Wayne and Genesee counties. The season for onions is fast drawing to a close and another 15 days will no doubt see the finish.

"Demand for old cabbage showed some improvement the first part of the week, but by the end practically all shipments were being consigned and the returns on those cars so shipped were very discouraging. The warm weather which has prevailed the past week has affected the cabbage considerably and some growers report that they will dump some of their stock.

"Demand and trading in carrots has been very slow. Most of the 46 cars moving this week were either consigned or rolled to soup factories on previous contracts. Practically every one has given up hopes of any improvement in the prices, although some seem to think that conditions could not be worse in May, and as they cannot move the carrots now at any price, they are holding them in expectation of at least finding a market later in the spring."

11b. AIR-LINE SPEED

Spanning the continent in the first all-air night-and-day passenger and mail schedule, National Air Transport and Boeing Air Transport will open service on April 1, which will put the New York passenger in San Francisco in 31 hours and the eastbound passenger over the same 2,770-mile route at his destination in 28 hours. Under the new schedule, there will be 13 stops in nine States, and, directly or through connections, the lines will serve cities which are the trade centers for a population of 40,000,000.

12b. GOOD SEASON FOR CELERY IN FLORIDA

The following report was rendered by J. B. Owens from Sanford on March 23:-

"The shippers and growers of celery in the Sanford-Oviedo district are again witnessing an interesting and pleasant situation,- interesting because it is more or less surprising and unexpected, and pleasant because of the satisfactory returns on fairly-good yields. The weather has played a most important role in bringing about this situation. Since the beginning of the season, the weather has been generally cool, with very few days of real warm weather. This cool weather extending over such a long period has caused a very uniform movement of the crop to date, and shipments have been generally lighter than was expected. It seems now that approximately 50% of the acreage has been harvested, and, while it is not expected that the daily shipments in the future will be as light as they have been, it is believed that the movement into storage which started last week will more than take care of the increase. This should have a stabilizing effect on the market, even under increased shipments.

"The general condition of the crop is unchanged and the quality of shipments is generally good. Cool weather has retarded the presence of black-heart which usually appears at this time of the season, and the appearance of pink rot is less frequent than it was last week. The shipments are still running heavily to large sizes, but it is expected that there will be a decrease in the percentage of large stock during the week. There is still considerable alarm over the unusually heavy development of seeders in the late crop.

"The f.o.b. market is again occupying a firm position, after advancing 25¢ a crate on 3-4 dozen's and remaining unchanged on other sizes. The wire inquiry is unusually good at present, and most of the shippers have booked their shipments for several days in advance."

13b. LIMA BEANS TO BE INCLUDED IN SHIPMENT REPORTS

Beginning April 1, we are arranging to have Lima beans included with string or snap beans in our carlot shipment reports. In many cases, Lima beans have been so reported in the past, but this practice has not been general all over the country. In order to secure a complete report, we are requesting all railroads to include Lima beans in the string or snap bean reports on and after April 1. It may become necessary later to make a further revision and have Lima beans reported as a separate commodity, but for the present they will be included with snap beans under the following heading: "Beans (Snap and Lima)."

14b. ARIZONA LETTUCE SHIPMENTS HEAVY BUT PRICES GOOD

The following letter of March 22 came from A. E. Prugh, at Phoenix, Arizona:-

"A feeling of optimism prevails at Phoenix, with the start of the spring lettuce deal. Shipments from the Phoenix district increased more rapidly than expected from 30 cars on the 15th to 96 the 20th. The market has opened with a good demand on best stock at $2.25. During the past couple of days, some shippers could have secured a higher price but decided to hold

at that figure and not take a chance on curtailing demand. The weather has turned warm, with a maximum of 91° today. This will increase production and cut down the number of six-dozen size, as 10 days ago it seemed that there would be a large quantity of that size.

"Quality has been improving in Salt River Valley, and yesterday inspections showed 14 cars of U.S. No. 1 and 20 cars of 85% U.S. No. 1 stock. Quality of Yuma lettuce has been exceptionally good the past 10 days, and about a week ago this stock sold as high as $2.75 f.o.b. Yuma lettuce has been commanding a premium of $1-$1.25 in leading markets over the early shipments from the Phoenix district, but Salt River Valley quality has been improving. The Commercial and No. 12 varieties have been heading-up best in this warm weather.

"Shipments are expected to increase rapidly the coming week and over 1,000 cars are expected to move. Some predict the peak about March 26 and others not until April 2, with 175 to 200 cars from Salt River Valley. Yuma has been running around 20 a day and may continue at that rate for a week and then decline.

"The latest figures on spring lettuce acreage released by Mr. Foote show 13,823 acres for the Phoenix district, which includes such outlying points as Buckeye and Eloy; and 1,475 acres for the Yuma district. About 24 packing companies are operating in the Salt River Valley and six at Yuma.

"I notice a marked increase in the acreage of grapefruit trees around Phoenix."

15b. SEGREGATE MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS IN UNLOAD REPORTS

The unload reports obtained at practically all market stations include certain commodities such as peanuts, cocoanuts, Christmas trees, etc., which can not properly be classed as fresh fruits and vegetables. In making up the monthly unload reports, such products should be grouped at the end of the report, under a designation of Miscellaneous Commodities, and should not be included in the totals of fruits and vegetables.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas H. S. Duncan	Pears* Apples Onions Carrots Cabbage* Celery* Peaches* Grapes* Potatoes	Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 8 Sept. 23 Oct. 6	Nov. 3* May 29 Apr. 15 May 1 Mar. 28* Jan. 10* Oct. 4* Oct. 29* May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	June 6
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples* Onions Potatoes	Oct. 24 Oct. 24 Oct. 24	Nov. 7* Mar. 28 May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans Peppers Tomatoes	Nov. 17 Dec. 19 Jan. 16	Apr. 1 May 1 May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr. Vegs.	Jan. 5 Jan. 5	Apr. 1 Apr. 1
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage Spinach* Beets Carrots Beans Potatoes Onions Tomatoes	Jan. 5 Jan. 5 Jan. 5 Jan. 6 Mar. 20 Mar. 30 Mar. 30 Apr. 27	May 15 Mar. 7* May 15 May 15 May 15 May 15 Apr. 30 May 29
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Mar. 18	Apr. 18
HAMMOND, LA.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 15
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
LAREDO, TEXAS**	801	W. D. Googe	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS**	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 13	May 23
HASTINGS, FLA.**	851	B. E. Surry	Potatoes	Apr. 13	May 20
The following station closes on date indicated:					
WAUPACA, WIS.,** Court House	894	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 15	Mar. 28

** State cooperating
B. E. Surry in Chicago
R. G. Risser in Chicago

* Reports discontinued
W. D. Googe on leave in Fort Worth
W. F. Cox in San Francisco

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES

A cooperative agreement has been signed for Federal-State shipping-point inspection service the coming season in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The work will pertain to fruits (principally apples) and vegetables, except Maine potatoes, which are handled under a separate agreement. It is expected that this new service will begin about September 1, when apples start to move from New England.

This leaves only about four States of the Union, in which there are no cooperative agreements for inspection at shipping points.

2c. STATE OF ORIGIN ON RECEIVING-POINT CERTIFICATES

It has been noted that many receiving-point certificates issued recently do not show the State of origin of the products. While this cannot always be obtained and is not always important to the applicant, it is of importance to those who use our certificates for production, pathological and marketing studies of various kinds. It is believed that, with little additional trouble, this information can be obtained at the time the application is filed or by phone afterwards for inclusion under "Products Inspected." Generally it is best to show this along with label or brand statement.

3c. CORRECT TEMPERATURES

It is very important at this season of the year to get adequate and correct temperature readings on strawberries and other highly-perishable products. It is usually necessary to insert the thermometer at a second place in cars of strawberries, asparagus, etc., in order to obtain correct temperature readings. When only one insertion is made, the temperature reading may be one or two degrees too high and, because of this, all inspectors are instructed to insert their thermometer in the product a second time before recording the temperature on the note sheet.

4c. COMPLAINT REGARDING CUTTING OF SACKS

Once or twice a year we receive a complaint from some member of the trade that our inspectors recklessly cut sacks and leave a car in such condition that the dealer cannot take a buyer into it without considerable expense in restoring the car to a presentable appearance. Please read again paragraphs 33, 34, 35, Part 1, Receiving-Point Handbook. Sacks should never be cut, when they can be opened by untying the tops. A sewing needle should be part of the equipment of every inspector, who is making inspection of products of this kind. Use every precaution, so that neither you nor the service as a whole will be subjected to criticism on account of carelessness in this connection.

STRAWBERRY production in five early States together is forecast at 54,667,000 quarts. A reported decrease of 9% in acreage is more than offset by higher yields per acre in all States except Florida. Louisiana expects a good crop of 31,200,000 quarts, compared with 28,290,000 last year.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 1
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 1	Apr. 15
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables Strawberries Potatoes Beans	Nov. 5 Mar. 25 Apr. 25 Apr. 25	June 15 May 15 June 15 June 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	May 15
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1

REPORTS regarding Ohio shipping-point inspections can be obtained by addressing M. W. Baker, at our Columbus office.

Indiana and Michigan shipping-point inspection reports can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Court House, Warsaw, Indiana.

Reports regarding shipping-point inspections of Tennessee sweet-potatoes can be obtained from Nelson B. Rue, Division of Markets, Nashville.

Reports on vegetables from Winter Garden district of Texas can be had through the San Antonio office.

5c. SEND WASHINGTON COPIES OF INSPECTION CERTIFICATES PROMPTLY

Some of our offices are not mailing Washington copies of certificates as promptly as required by the rules and regulations. It is highly important that our Washington copies be placed in the files promptly, so that they can be located when needed. It will be of great assistance also, if the certificates are arranged in serial order before they are sent in.

A careful check will be kept on each office in the future, in order to see that these requirements are being complied with.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

A. S. Mason sailed from New York City yesterday for Porto Rico, where he will supervise the shipping-point inspection work on citrus fruits, particularly grapefruit, this spring and summer. Communications for Mr. Mason can be directed in care of The Fruit Growers' Improvement Committee, 402 Ochoa Building, San Juan, Porto Rico.

K. S. Branch and G. A. Bidelman, of the Cleveland inspection staff, will be successively on annual leave between March 30 and May 4. D. C. Beeler, of the Chicago office, will substitute in Cleveland during this period.

J. A. Marks has gone to Pittsburgh for a very important event, which will occur on March 28. It is understood that he will be married this Saturday, although we do not have the name of the bride-to-be. Cordial congratulations are extended to Mr. Marks. He completed his supervision of shipping-point work in the State of New York last week and reached Pittsburgh a few days ago. He expects to start southward with his bride about April 5, and will supervise the inspections of strawberries and other products in Alabama.

R. G. Risser completed his period of service at Waupaca, Wis., and will return at the end of this week to the Chicago office. Potato market reports for Wisconsin will continue to be issued from the Stevens Point office, under State supervision.

Wm. E. Leigh went from Washington to New York and Chicago this week to obtain information, on the basis of which grades may be prepared for faba beans.

J. G. Cross returned on Monday from his western trip in the interest of shipment reports. He was absent for nearly 10 weeks.

W. D. Googe expects to complete his military leave in Texas by next Monday. He will then return to Fort Worth and be on annual leave until April 5, when he will go to Laredo, Texas, to issue reports on onions. C. D. Schoolcraft will remain in charge of the field station at Brownsville until the end of the season.

M. C. Gregory also returns early next week to the Fort Worth office, after having been on military leave. A. H. Polster will proceed from Fort Worth to Dallas and open the new office in that city.

We regret to have to report that H. E. Rutland, who is on sick leave at Presque Isle, Maine, is still incapacitated for duty, but his condition shows appreciable improvement. He probably will not be able to return to active service before the latter part of this year.

T. C. Curry and W. W. Anderson were in the Washington office this week. Mr. Curry will proceed soon to Louisville and Mr. Anderson will go to Birmingham to open the new inspection office at that point.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Wm. Gary Thompson, who resigned from the Inspection Service in February, 1923, because of ill health, has been reinstated, effective April 1, as an Assistant Marketing Specialist and will be connected with the Market News Service. He will report for duty in Chicago. A couple of weeks ago, Mr. Thompson visited officials in the Washington office. It will be remembered that he was on the Fruit and Vegetable staff from May, 1917, until his resignation in 1923. He was associated with the News Service in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Atlanta and Kansas City, and transferred to the Inspection Service at New Orleans in 1920. He has recently been living at Johnson City, Tenn.

Robert Bier left Washington on Wednesday for a two weeks' trip in the interest of shipping-point inspection work. He planned to stop at Richmond, Raleigh, Aiken, Jacksonville, New Orleans, Montgomery and Atlanta. He will make arrangements for handling the spring work in this territory and will line up the necessary personnel.

W. L. Evans went to Philadelphia on March 26 for the purpose of testifying in behalf of the Government in connection with the trial of a commission merchant charged with having violated the Produce Agency Act. Mr. Evans returned to Washington the same day.

J. W. Dykes will include Chicago and Pittsburgh in his itinerary, in connection with the travel which he is performing under the Produce Agency Act.

H. V. DeMott expects to leave Washington on March 31 for Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he will examine 1918 Government wool records in connection with a case of alleged excess-profits on wool during the war period.

C. R. Newton will be in New York City on March 28, where he will confer with the U.S. Attorney and others regarding a pending Produce Agency Act case.

Five new offices of the Inspection Service will be opened about April 1, and the following names and addresses should be added to all lists of inspection offices:-

City	In Charge	Local Address
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.	W. W. Anderson	44 New Post Office Building
DALLAS, TEXAS	A. H. Polster	500 Post Office & Court House Bldg.
DES MOINES, IOWA	R. C. Lindstrom	310 New Federal Court House
LOUISVILLE, KY.	T. C. Curry	328 Old Post Office Building
TULSA, OKLA.	R. B. Landrum	303 Central Bank Building

Some of these addresses may be subject to change, so far as the room numbers are concerned. Men in charge should advise Washington promptly of any necessary corrections in this list.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 14 April 3, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. CARBON COPIES OF LETTERS MUST BE SENT TO WASHINGTON

It is noticed that the Washington office is not receiving copies of all official letters prepared in field and market stations. Please refer to Par. 32 of the Administrative Section of the Handbook. All offices, both city and field, which are not now doing so, are hereby directed to make an extra carbon of all official letters, except those written to this Division, and forward such carbon copies promptly to the Washington office. It is essential that this be done, in order that we may keep more fully informed regarding field conditions and problems. Do not attach these carbon copies to original letters bearing on other subjects.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. A REPORT ON THE RECENT FROST IN TEXAS

Under date of March 29, the following report was received from G. D. Clark, at Austin, Texas:-

"There was little or no damage to Texas truck crops resulting from the cold wave during the past two days. Light frost last night in the Eagle Lake section is believed not to have damaged potatoes. Also a light frost in Yoakum probably did no damage to tomatoes. Sections farther south are thought to be safe. Only a small percentage of East Texas tomatoes have been set in fields and these are reported protected. However, if there was any loss, there are sufficient plants available to reset the fields."

3a. PLANTING INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO STAPLE CROPS

Recently the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates issued separate reports on the intentions of growers to plant four important crops this season. Total potato acreage apparently will be almost 11% greater than that harvested last year. Plantings of sweet-potatoes may be increased about one-fourth over the light acreage of 1930. The acreage of late or main-crop onions is expected to be reduced by 9% and production may be about 15% below that of last year. Acreage of domestic-type cabbage for market in the late States is expected to show a decrease of about 3% but Danish-type cabbage an increase of 5%, making a net increase of about 2% in late cabbage for market.

4a. ANOTHER MARKETING SUMMARY ISSUED

This week a summary has been distributed on "Marketing Eastern Shore Potatoes, 1930 Season," the author being V. H. Nicholson.

5a. STORAGE HOLDINGS IN CALIFORNIA

The following report was received through the San Francisco office:-

TOTAL COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS IN CALIFORNIA

Commodity		Mar.15,1931	Feb.28,1931	Mar.15,1930
Apples	(Boxes)	1,499,897	1,694,333	847,234
Pears	(Boxes and Lugs)	155,935	189,572	100,696
Onions	(Sacks)	72,057	76,164	104,604
Potatoes	(Sacks)	253,525	230,457	176,969

TOTAL PUBLIC WAREHOUSE (Dry Storage) HOLDINGS

Commodity		Mar.15,1931	Feb.28,1931	Mar.15,1930
Onions	(Sacks)	9,909	13,796	8,740
Potatoes	(Sacks)	97,076	125,808	68,209

6a. AN IMPORTANT REPORT ON THE UNITED STATES BULB INDUSTRY

As a result of his investigations extending over a considerable period of time, Robert G. Hill, of the Standardization and Research project, has published a valuable mimeographed report of 55 pages, entitled: "A Survey of the United States Bulb Industry." It is replete with important data relating to bulbs and includes a map, showing the producing sections of the United States. Copies of this report can be had from the Washington office by all interested persons.

Mr. Hill's work is the first comprehensive survey ever made of the bulb industry in this country.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. CONDITIONS NOT SO GOOD AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

C. D. Schoolcraft sent the following report from Brownsville, Texas, on March 28:-

"Lower Rio Grande Valley markets, generally speaking, are not in as favorable a position as they were a week ago. The price advances in cabbage, made the latter part of last week, were short-lived. Prices a week ago of $10-$12 per ton bulk, usual terms, served to increase loadings to the point that, for the three days of Thursday, Friday and Saturday last, shipments from the State averaged 170 cars per day. By Monday the market began to slip and by Wednesday it had reached the previous season low of $7-$8 per ton. Prices to growers were at a level of $3-$4 per ton, and this served to check loadings somewhat. However, the week's average shipments were over 100 cars per day.

"Two to three cars of beans have moved daily during this week, besides considerable quantities in mixed cars and by l.c.l. express. Quality is reported as good. Prices have declined from $4.50 per bushel, usual terms, a week ago to $3.50 today. Dealers have not viewed this decline with alarm, however, as they realized that the early prices were too high. Bean movement may be expected to pick up somewhat, although shipments will likely be light the greater part of the season.

"Potatoes are moving in a light way, with about 25 cars out this week. Practically everything is being graded U.S. No. 1, 1½-inch minimum. It will likely be 10 days or two weeks before any volume of straight U.S. No. 1's is shipped. The Late Blight is still serious, and growers and dealers are generally discouraged as to the outlook for any volume this year. Estimates on shipments are being variously placed at 1,000 to around 1,200 cars, as a maximum for the lower Valley. Most of the stock now being shipped is from blight-injured fields, and yields are ranging from almost nothing in some fields to 40 or 50 bushels in others. There is some acreage that will not be dug, but there are reports of some acreages in good condition that promise good yields.

"The first car of onions was shipped from Santa Rosa yesterday. This is about a week later than last year. Movement will get under way in the Raymondville section next week. It looks as if the Raymondville deal is going to overlap the Laredo and Crystal City deals more than usual. Estimates of shipments from the Raymondville district are now being placed around last year's figure or slightly over 700 cars. Quality and yields are reported generally good.

"Frosts were predicted for the Valley last night but failed to materialize."

2b. PROGRESS OF WASHINGTON RHUBARB SEASON

A letter of March 28 from T. R. Hall, of Seattle, includes the following statement on rhubarb:-

"The hothouse rhubarb harvest has practically ended in the Puyallup-Sumner district, and the cool damp weather which has prevailed in the Puget Sound area all week is not conducive to the production of best quality outdoor rhubarb. The stalks are short, which, from a market standpoint, is rather undesirable."

3b. LAST REPORT ON WISCONSIN POTATOES

Just before leaving Waupaca, Wis., on March 28, R. G. Risser wrote the following letter:-

"Closely following and overlapping the heavy national movement of potatoes which occurred during the week ending March 21, there was a complete reversal of trading conditions on Wisconsin potatoes from those which had immediately preceded the heavy movement. From a situation of brisk activity the first and middle of the week, there was practically an over-night change to almost complete stagnation.

"Recovery during the week ending March 28 has been slow. The accumulation of heavy supplies is still having its effect, even though the current movement has been somewhat reduced. Readjustment in prices has encouraged trading to some extent, and the limited haulings have engendered a better feeling. The fluctuation in prices does not tell the whole story, for there has been a greater transition in trading activity than in price levels. In fact, during the most critical time, there were too few sales to quote. Shippers are now receiving moderate wire-inquiry and are making some sales of U.S. No.1's at $1.30-$1.35 per cwt."

4b. MICHIGAN F.O.B. MARKETS IN FIRM POSITION

The following letter of March 28 came from R. E. Keller, in charge of the Grand Rapids office:-

"The onion market in western Michigan shows evidence of finishing fairly strong. While the price has weakened slightly, the returns were still a third to a half higher than prices received during most of the season. The delay in early shipments from Texas has been the salvation of the clean-up in old-crop onions. With the cold weather this week-end sweeping over Texas, presenting further possible delay to southern stock, Michigan operators are quite optimistic for a satisfactory price during the remainder of the deal.

"Shipments to date total just under the 5,000-car mark. Recent count of all the onions in the State indicates that the final movement will be between 5,400 and 5,500 cars, which means that Michigan will have to ship about 30 cars daily during the next two weeks to move the remaining 400 or 500 cars. Some of the cold-storage stock will likely be fed out all during April. This estimate may be cut some by spoilage and waste, when the cars are loaded out, but, if the market remains comparatively strong, most of these onions will be shipped.

"Michigan's potato prices moved upward the latter part of this week, in sympathy with the trend from pivotal market and shipping-point centers. Carlot movement of potatoes to date totals 1,925 cars. Estimates made last fall, by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, were that the State's production was the smallest since 1899, and shipment records certainly substantiate their figures. An estimate of the potatoes yet to be shipped is rather difficult to make, as most of the stock is now in the hands of farmers, who are the sole speculators on Michigan potatoes. The amount of stock that will be required for seed, the quantity that will be taken by truckers, and the volume that has already been moved via the highways make it exceedingly difficult to judge accurately just what the final carlot movement will be. Shippers' ideas vary widely, ranging from 300 to 900 cars yet to be moved."

5b. LOWEST TEMPERATURES OF THE SEASON IN COLORADO

Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, wrote as follows in a letter dated March 28:-

"The Rocky Mountain region experienced the worst blizzard and coldest weather of the season this week. The minimum temperature recorded in Denver was 2° below zero, with other points in the State as low as 6° to 8° below. A heavy wind accompanied the snow, which drifted roads badly, especially in the northeastern portion of the State in the Greeley potato section.

"Only nine cars of potatoes were shipped from around Greeley on Thursday and Friday, while dealers expected shipments to increase to around 25 or 30 cars Saturday, as the roads are cleared by snow-plows. Shipping-point prices advanced sharply late this week. Northern Colorado dealers were offering farmers $1 per cwt. for standard grade Rurals, while farmers in the San Luis Valley received $1.05-$1.10 for Brown Beautys, with occasional loaded cars reported up to $1.15. The Red McClure market advanced also, with dealers paying $1.35-$1.45, and occasional sales at $1.47½ to the growers. The McClure market was close to the top prices paid last fall, when the maximum for the season was reached at $1.60.

"The onion season has practically ended, as far as Colorado is concerned. The Arkansas Valley had loaded 1,270 cars by the latter part of this week, with a possibility that the final movement may reach 1,300 cars, as predicted two months ago. The movement last year was practically double the present shipments, with 2,418 to date. On the Western Slope, shippers were trying to clean up available supplies before warmer weather deteriorated the stock in storage. About 680 cars had been shipped by Friday night, with a possibility of 35 to 40 cars remaining in storage. Demand was somewhat better for onions on the Western Slope, but prices remained about steady.

"Supplies of California asparagus have been heavy on the Denver market, with sales ranging very low for this season of the year. Best Central California grass received by freight was jobbing at 8¢-10¢ per pound, with occasional lots as low as $2 per crate. Eight cars have been unloaded since March 17, with two cars on track Saturday morning. Demand has been quite good at the low prices, and the movement liberal."

6b. RECENT CROP NEWS FROM SOUTHERN FLORIDA

V. H. Nicholson sent the following report from Miami, Florida, on March 28:-

"Weather conditions in southern Florida this week have been rather favorable for the vegetable crops. It has been warm and mostly clear all week, although rain and colder is forecast for tonight and Sunday. There was a rather strong wind over some localities last Sunday, but little damage was reported.

"Carlot shipments of beans have increased and it now appears that shipments for the week will amount to approximately 120 cars. Most of the beans are still coming from the section around Pompano, but the movement from that section is probably now at its peak. Probably one-third of the total is now coming from around the Lake, with the shipments from that section slowly increasing. The young crop is reported to be in good condition and planting is still going on in the Belle Glade-Canal Point section.

(continued over)

"Shipments of tomatoes have also increased, but total movement this week will probably not exceed 135 or 140 car-lots. Most growers have been anxious to get their fruit on the high market of the last few days, and many have picked stock that should have remained on the vines for a few days longer. Mexican shipments have been heavy, and most of the terminal markets have shown a weaker tendency during the last few days. With a declining market, there has been little demand for green stock, and shippers have tried to persuade growers to stop picking for a few days. However, shipments have continued a little heavier than last week.

"Shipments of peppers are about the same volume as last week, and the market continues firm. Growers were getting $4-$4.25 for fancy and $2.75-$3.25 for choice at the express platform at Pompano yesterday. Quality of the crop is still only fair, although shippers report that it is slowly improving."

7b. IDAHO POTATO MARKET STILL STRONG

L. C. Tate wrote as follows from Idaho Falls in a letter of March 26:-

"The advance in potato prices last week met with some unfavorable conditions, which undermined the market for a few days, but trading has come back to normal today and prices are again soaring hourly. The advance started on Tuesday of last week, and due to the pessimistic frame of mind of most dealers, there was a tremendous quantity of potatoes sold for loading this week. This lack of faith in the price situation brought on a new shipment record for Idaho twice last week. Previously, the high mark for one day was 236 carloads, established in the 1927-28 season, when Idaho had a crop of over 28,000 cars. Last Friday loadings amounted to 251 cars, and on Saturday they stepped up to 278 cars.

"Most of the loadings this week have been on previous sales. Such a thing may not sound reasonable, when Idaho is shipping 150 to 200 cars daily, but it is nevertheless true. Dealers were expecting these heavy loadings to demoralize the market, but they have now come to realize that these cars were already sold to terminal receivers, and they have again started to stock-up on supplies.

"A blizzard settled down over the entire State on Wednesday and Wednesday night, so that country roads are in bad shape. This will tend to support a firm market for the balance of the week, if not longer. Some buyers are offering as high as $1 bulk for No. 1 Russets this morning, while loaded cars have sold around $1-$1.10, with some a shade lower. There are probably over 6,000 cars yet to move from Idaho, and, with the southern crop coming on slowly, it appears that they may be sold to advantage."

7½b. APPLE CONCENTRATE

A Berlin dispatch March 29 says: "The apple a day that keeps the doctor away... can now be gulped down in the form of a lozenge. A young German scientist has discovered a method whereby, it is asserted, the fruit can be ground to a powder and pressed into blocks without any loss of flavor or healthy salts. The blocks can be eaten raw or cooked."

IF YOU EVER FAIL TO RECEIVE THE WEEKLY DIVISION LETTER, TELL THE WASHINGTON OFFICE PROMPTLY, SO A COPY MAY BE SENT.

8b. ASPARAGUS HAULED BY TRUCK 900 MILES IN 36 HOURS

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, sent the following interesting letter under date of March 20:-

"This office cannot be outdone by any stories of long-distance auto-truck transportation of perishables, and to substantiate our claim the following is related. It may also be of interest to some of the other men, who are as nearly bewildered about means of arriving at any estimate of truck receipts on their markets as I am for the Seattle territory:

"My attention was called to a truck-load of Sacramento, California, asparagus, which was being distributed among the dealers on the produce market this morning. An inspection showed that the asparagus had arrived in Seattle in good condition. The distance between Sacramento and this city is approximately 900 miles and the usual driving time is 36 hours. The cost of delivery is $2 per cwt. by automobile, and the express companies are holding to a rate of $2.89 for the same distance.

"This truck is equipped to provide refrigeration with dry ice. About 60-75 pounds, under prevailing conditions, maintain a temperature for most vegetables below 50 degrees. Two drivers serve in relays, and sleeping accommodations are provided in the front portion of the body of the truck. Later in the season, the owners expect to haul produce from Los Angeles to this market, and claim they can maintain a 60-hour running-time schedule. Some of the local trade have sufficient faith in the success of this method of transportation to try bringing in California strawberries, instead of using the express. The owners of the trucks, their present fleet consisting of five, get business on the return from local fish shippers, and the equipment is thoroughly steamed out and washed after each trip.

"The following additional facts about the truck and equipment are of interest: The body is mounted on a Reo Speedwagon chassis, equipped with eight wheels. The body has a capacity of about 360 pyramid crates and an estimated cubical capacity of 1,000 to 1,200 cubic feet. The usual carlot loading in the Sacramento district is about 640 crates. The truck is insulated with a three-inch thickness of material between the two walls. The weight of the outfit unloaded was reported as 10,500 pounds."

9b. HEAVY SHIPMENTS OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT

H. F. Willson sent the following letter from Winter Haven under date of March 27:-

"It is the general opinion that Florida grapefruit prices will show an advance in the near future, particularly if the balance of the crop is well distributed over the remainder of the season. The low prices and bulk shipments have resulted in wide distribution, relatively high consumption, and more prospective buyers.

"The shipments have been heavy. For the past eight weeks ending March 21, the average weekly Florida grapefruit shipments have been approximately 1,100 cars. This total figure is the number of straight cars plus the proper proportion of mixed cars. The Clearing House is estimating 28,500 cars of grapefruit, including mixed, and, with a total movement to March 21 of 20,558 cars, this would leave 7,942 yet to ship. There are 12 shipping weeks to June 13; so the average weekly shipments will have to be 662 cars. Two years ago, on corresponding date, there were only 10 weeks to ship, and

practically the same number of cars were moved, or 7,756. The weekly auction average for that period was $3.31, or 86¢ above last week's average of $2.45 per box.

"Speculators are showing their confidence in present conditions by buying fruit on the trees. One packing-house manager said that buyers were offering as much as 75¢ a box, but most offers are around 40¢ to 50¢."

10b. SHARP ADVANCE IN MAINE POTATO PRICES

On March 23, W. D. Hull wrote a letter from Presque Isle, Maine, part of which is printed below:-

"During the week of March 16-21, the Maine potato market showed more strength that at any time since last fall. On Tuesday (March 17) there were reports of strengthening in the West, and the Maine market was quick to respond. Demand was much better and shippers had little difficulty in obtaining an advance of 5¢ per cwt. sacked over Monday's prices. Wednesday (March 18) brought a very great increase in buying, as the city dealers were all anxious to place their orders before there was any further advance in prices. It is probable that Wednesday was the peak day of buying, although there was sufficient carry-over on Thursday to keep the larger shippers busy confirming orders and turning over to smaller shippers the ones that they could not fill.

"The market on certified Green Mountains remained draggy throughout the week of March 16-21, but selected Cobblers were in big demand and prices increased 25¢-50¢ per 11-peck sack. Sales at $2.75 per 11-peck sack were reported, with the majority from $2.35 to $2.65. Supplies of selected Cobblers are becoming very light and some shippers reported difficulty in filling orders, even at the higher prices."

In another letter, dated March 30, Mr. Hull sent the following additional information on potatoes:-

"Demand for Maine potatoes was rather slow during the fore part of last week, as the result of the very heavy shipments the week before. The local market remained steady, with a very firm undertone during the first three days of the week. Thursday there was some improvement in demand and the market responded very quickly, with f.o.b. prices advancing 10¢ per cwt., while the street price showed an advance of 10¢-25¢ per barrel.

"Because of the condition of the roads, haulings from farms were very light throughout the week, it being possible to haul only a few hours during the forenoon while the roads were frozen. With the developing of the stronger market on Thursday, the farmers were very unwilling to sell at the prevailing prices, but some stock was bought for delivery this week when the roads would be in better shape. It was reported that prices as high as $2.50 per barrel were paid for stock to be delivered this week. The greater part of last week's shipments were loaded from storage. Stocks in some of the warehouses were considerably reduced, so that the operators were very anxious to buy more potatoes and paid top prices to get them.

"Nearly all the shippers were very optimistic over the action of the market and the manner in which it rallied so quickly after the heavy shipments of the preceding week. They feel that prospects are very good for a strong market during the next few weeks. While demand was only

moderate, efforts to obtain higher prices were in the main successful. On Saturday, every one was excited and offers that would net $1.50 per cwt. sacked were refused on every hand. Some orders were filled on an f.o.b. basis of $1.55-$1.60 per cwt. sacked, while the street price was from $2.25 up, on what little stock was bought in storage, there being practically no haulings.

"Shipments from Maine last week were around 1,550 cars, which is nearly 350 less than during the week of March 16 to 21. Through Wednesday of last week, shippers were still filling orders which had been booked the previous week during the flurry of buying, which took place when the Chicago 'futures' on Idaho Russets jumped to $2. Shipments to date this season have passed 43,000 cars. Opinions vary as to the number that remain to be shipped. Those who are best informed place the number at 10,000 to 12,000 cars."

11b. FLORIDA CELERY BEING RUSHED TO MARKET

J. B. Owens sent the following letter from Sanford, Florida, on March 30:-

"The celery situation in the Sanford-Oviedo district, as far as shipments are concerned, has taken on a different aspect than was generally expected. Until a few days ago, it was thought that shipments would continue for approximately three or four weeks in about the same volume as they had been going out for the past six weeks, but the rapid development of seeders has changed this situation somewhat. It now seems that shipments for this week and next will be rather heavy, due to the fact that an extra effort will be made to harvest as much of the crop as possible before the seeders develop far enough to materially affect the quality. After this time, the movement is uncertain and will be determined largely by the condition of the market.

"The movement of Florida celery into storage started about 10 days ago and since that time approximately 20% of the shipments have been sold for that purpose. More than likely a larger percentage of this week's movement will go into storage, due to the anticipated rapid decline in quality.

"The f.o.b. market made an advance today (Monday) of 25¢ a crate on three dozen's, which brings the price on three, four, and ten dozen's in the rough to $2 a crate. Six and eight dozen's in the rough are still selling at $2.25 per crate. The demand continues to be very good and most shippers report that they have received enough orders today to take care of their shipments for the next three days."

12b. WESTERN NEW YORK SEASON WANING

On March 31, A. L. Thomas wrote as follows from the Rochester office:-

"The movement of western New York apples dropped off considerably during the past two weeks and is now averaging around 30 cars daily. The dealers who own good fruit are holding for higher prices, and there is a range of about 10¢-15¢ on bushels between the price buyers are willing to pay and the asking price.

"Demand and trading in onions has been rather limited this week. There is a weaker tendency to the market and prices dropped about 10¢ per sack.

"Another advance in potatoes occurred the first part of this week and prices are again up to $2.45-$2.55 for 150-pound sacks of U.S. No. 1 Round

Whites. Most dealers are paying the growers 75¢-80¢, and in a few cases as high as 85¢ per bushel for good stock. The peak movement this season to date occurred on March 25, when 48 cars rolled from the State. Individual reports from dealers who have visited the producing areas indicate that holdings are much lighter than at this time last year.

"There has been practically no demand or trading in carrots. Some of the movement now is from sales made on previous contracts and some cars are being consigned. Returns on stock consigned are very low. In one case a dealer reported he received $26 for a car consigned to New York City. No f.o.b. sales were made this week."

13b. INTERESTING REPORT FROM STATE OF WASHINGTON

The following letter of March 28 came from T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office:-

"Developments in the old potato market for the Yakima Valley growers and shippers during the past week are : continued advance in prices, with a resulting heavier daily loading at shipping points and a good movement into the middlewestern and southern markets. It is estimated that only 50 cars remain to be shipped from the Ellensburg district, and most of the present shipments are being billed from lower Yakima Valley points. Well-graded U.S. No. 1 potatoes have commanded around $20 per ton and offerings are scarce. A wide range in prices for Washington Combinations has existed.

"In the early vegetable districts of the lower Yakima Valley, potatoes have been planted for early summer digging. Some growers have experienced difficulty in making financial arrangements for their 1931 operations. A few operators have refused to advance funds to be devoted to the production of the new crop, but other large concerns are taking mortgages on the property as security for funds advanced to growers.

"There is practically no demand for seed potatoes from Oregon this spring, but dry-land seed potatoes from Montana are being used to a greater extent. Some certified seed produced in the Puget Sound country is being tried for the first time by Yakima Valley growers, and Ellensburg seed-potato growers are the source of a limited quantity for use in the lower Valley. The impending shortage of irrigation water for eastern Washington may curtail plantings, for, in the proposed scheme to meet the situation, many crops other than potatoes will have precedence in the prorated delivery of water.

"The first crate of asparagus was shipped from Kennewick on Thursday, March 26. This is about 10 days later than the opening of the 1930 season. However, nights have been very cool practically all week and an active movement cannot be expected before April 1. A few warm days will bring this crop along very rapidly.

"Some interesting developments have occurred in the canning industry recently. Increased quantities of this crop are being used for canning as green asparagus, and, from a survey of the past three years, it is evident in the minds of the promoters that green canned asparagus is due to become increasingly popular. The Canadian trade has taken a decided liking to this pack, with large operators in both Vancouver, B.C., and Hamilton, Ont., contracting for heavy supplies."

14b. SPECIAL REQUESTS NUMEROUS IN NEW YORK CITY

E. R. Biddle, of the New York office, has kept a record of special written requests for copies of his daily market reports and other mimeographed reports during a period of 12 months. The results are shown in the tabulation below. Requests by telephone are not included.

The figures represent the number of requests and are no indication of the number of individual reports sent out. The requests were for bulletins or market reports for some particular date or dates, such as would be used in freight-claim cases or in research work. Sometimes the requests included bulletins or reports for an entire week or possibly a month, and in extreme cases a period of six months was represented.

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR NEW YORK CITY MARKET REPORTS

Oct. 23, 1929-Oct. 22, 1930

NUMBER OF REQUESTS BY MONTHS (Total 202):

October	28	March	19	December	16	May	13
April	23	July	18	June	16	September	12
November	21	August	17	January	13	February	6

NUMBER OF REQUESTS BY STATES (Total States and Foreign Districts 23):

New York	120	Alabama	3	Ohio	2	Mississippi	1
Texas	24	D.C.	3	Utah	2	Oregon	1
Illinois	8	Pennsylvania	3	Connecticut	1	Washington	1
Florida	8	Massachusetts	2	Idaho	1		
California	7	New Jersey	2	Maryland	1	Porto Rico	2
Colorado	6	N. Carolina	2	Michigan	1	Canada	1

COMMODITY NAMES (31) AND NUMBER OF TIMES INCLUDED IN REQUESTS (Total 220):

Onions	21	Potatoes	7	Broccoli	2	Artichokes	1
Cantaloupes	18	Apples	6	Celery	2	Chicory	1
Honey Dews	4	Carrots	5	Eggplant	2	Cucumbers	1
Honey Balls	2	Corn	5	Parsley	2	Watermelons	1
Lettuce	13	Beans	4	Peppers	2		
Spinach	11	Cabbage	4	Radishes	2	Miscellaneous	32*
Cauliflower	9	Beets	3	Shallots	2	Unloads	27#
Tomatoes	8	Peaches	3	Sweet Potatoes	2	Shipments	4
Peas	7	Strawberries	3	Anise	1	Crop Reports	3

*Includes requests in which no commodity was mentioned.

#Includes weekly, monthly and annual unload reports (annual after March 1 only)

FACTORS REQUESTING BULLETINS:

Railroads.. 79 Produce Firms.. 55 *Attorneys... 13 #Miscellaneous... 55

*Includes market stations, universities, county agents and newspapers, as well as names that could not be recognized for classification.

#Also includes traffic service agencies.

YEARS (7) INCLUDED IN REQUESTS; AND NUMBER OF TIMES EACH YEAR WAS REPRESENTED:

1929...121 1930...63 1928...19 1927...9 1926...3 1925...2 1924....1

15b. FIRST REPORT ON LOUISIANA STRAWBERRIES

R. L. Sutton wrote as follows from Hammond, La., on March 31:-

"The beginning of the harvest of the Louisiana strawberry crop came about a week later than previously expected. The cool weather delayed the maturity of the berries. At this time (March 31) most berries being shipped are showing considerable paleness, with not a full degree of color expected until next week. The first car-lot moved March 24; it was sold on the Hammond auction that night at $4.37½ per 24-pint crate of Klondikes. Although the offerings were light, following that first car, the buyers were rather reluctant to bid on the cars offered, so that the market declined during the balance of the week.

"Official weather reports a few days ago caused considerable alarm among the growers and shippers of Louisiana strawberries. However, the low temperatures that were predicted for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights did not materialize. A light frost occurred on Saturday night, but with no damage to strawberries. There has been a rather plentiful rainfall since my arrival here. Rain fell during Thursday and Friday of last week, and it rained most of the night, Monday the 30th.

"All reports point toward a big crop of berries for this territory. The plants are in good, healthy condition, and the quality of the fruit is excellent. It is to be expected that at this early period of the season some immature berries will be shipped. It seems that, in most every district, early-season shipments would show improvement, if allowed to remain in the fields a few days longer.

"Unsatisfactory weather conditions in the North are curtailing the consumption of berries. In the West and Middle West, storms and freezing temperatures are retarding trade. It is no secret that the first few cars shipped from this district have lost money for the shippers. F.o.b. prices are averaging considerably under those prevailing at the same time last season.

"The competition offered by Florida's output at this time is very important. In fact, that State is now supplying most of Louisiana's markets. The shipments from Florida have held recently around 55 cars daily, and have sold at shipping points around 8¢ per pint, whereas the cars sold at Hammond have averaged about 14¢ per pint. Shipments will not become important from this section before next week, a heavy volume being reached probably during the week of April 12, with the peak movement expected about the 20th. The outturn from Louisiana this season to date has totaled only 31 cars."

16b. SURPRISINGLY HEAVY MOVEMENT OF FLORIDA BERRIES

An interesting letter on Florida strawberries, celery and tomatoes is published below. It came from R. M. Peterson, at Plant City, under date of March 31:-

"The Florida strawberry movement has been a series of surprises this season, with record-breaking days, that were supposedly peak days, supplanted by heavier shipments.

"At the beginning of the season it was estimated that the movement would equal that of the past two seasons, but a long period of very unfavorable weather the latter part of February and the early part of March reduced the yield greatly and weakened the plants to the point where heavy production seemed practically impossible. The past few weeks, however, have been almost

ideal for strawberries, and production increased by leaps and bounds. The 50-car movement of March 21 was considered the peak day of the season, but last Friday and Saturday the shipments increased to 57 and 58 cars, with a total of 271 cars for the week. Yesterday (Monday) a new record was made with 66 cars out, but the movement will probably be light today because it rained all night and is raining hard this morning. This rain, combined with low prices, will undoubtedly result in light loadings the balance of the season. Most buyers feel that the season is practically over here, unless the Louisiana movement should develop slowly enough to produce a strong market. In that event, we may see a fair movement from this section for the next week or 10 days.

"Prices at shipping point dropped last week from 11¼¢ per pint on Monday to 8¢ on Thursday, but ruled steady the next three days, in spite of the general weakness of terminal markets. Yesterday's decline to 6¢ per pint was not unexpected; in fact, even lower prices were anticipated. This price is very close to the actual cost of picking and packing the berries, so any further weakness would probably exclude all picking except that done by the grower and his family.

"The Starke-Lawtey section developed a little faster than was anticipated and shipped a few cars last week and around 10 cars yesterday. The acreage in the Starke-Lawtey section is light but the plants are reported to be in good condition, and moderate movement is expected this week.

"The movement of celery from the Manatee section continues light, with around five cars daily. Sarasota will start cutting the spring crop Thursday but will not have over five cars this week. Loadings will increase slowly until the middle of April, when 15 to 20 cars daily are expected.

"A few cars of tomatoes will move from the Manatee section between April 25 and May 1, according to present indications. Shipments are expected to increase quite rapidly after May 5."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas H. S. Duncan	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	Apr. 15
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage*	Sept. 3	Mar. 28*
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	June 6
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Apr. 10
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 10
			Peppers	Dec. 19	May 1
			Tomatoes	Jan. 16	May 1
PLANT CITY, FLA.,** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 9
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 9
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach*	Jan. 5	Mar. 7*
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 20	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 30	May 15
			Onions	Apr. 6	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Mar. 18	Apr. 18
HAMMOND, LA., P.O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 15
LAREDO, TEXAS**	801	W. D. Googe	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23
HASTINGS, FLA.**	851	B. E. Surry	Potatoes	Apr. 7	May 20
The following stations probably open on dates indicated:					
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS**	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 13	May 23
BRADENTON, FLA.**	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	May 29

** State cooperating
R. G. Risser in Chicago

* Reports discontinued
W. F. Cox in San Francisco

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. NAMES FOR FIELD ROTS OF NORTHWESTERN APPLES

Attached to this D.L. is a sheet entitled: "Names for Field Rots of Northwestern Apples." This article was prepared by Dr. L. F. Butler, of B.P.I., several years ago. A few copies which were on hand in the Washington office were distributed with the D.L. for January 30, 1931, but the article is now reprinted and distributed to everybody, because of its importance to all inspectors. The sheet should be detached and be filed with other apple material in the Handbook.

2c. NUMBERS FOR INSPECTION OFFICES

Par. 114, Part 1, of the Receiving-Point Inspection Handbook gives instructions as to the marking of cars, which have been inspected in terminal markets. A list of cities is given, with the number which applies to each of the respective markets. Below is a supplementary list of markets, at which inspection offices have since been opened, and the numbers assigned to these several offices. This supplementary list includes the new offices of the Inspection Service, opened this month. It would be well to write-in these names and numbers, below or as a part of Par. 114:-

45 Providence
46 Seattle
47 Rochester
48 Dallas
49 Tulsa
50 Des Moines
51 Birmingham
Louisville had previously been assigned No. 26.

3c. INSPECTIONS IN FLORIDA DURING FIRST HALF OF MARCH

The following is a summary of a report from O. G. Strauss, Supervising Inspector for Florida:-

FRUITS

	Grapefruit	Oranges	Tangerines	Mixed	Total
Fruit inspections Mar.1-15:	16	25	-	6	47
" " to Feb. 28:	457	577	40	331	1405
" " through Mar.15:	473	602	40	337	1452

VEGETABLES

	Beets	Cabbage	Carrots	Celery	Cukes	Letc.	Peppers	Potatoes	Stbr.	Tomatoes	Tomatoes Mxd.	Total
Mar. 1-15:	-	6	1	599	-	1	-	-	23	2	4	636
to Feb. 28:	1	2	7	1402	15	21	61	1	59	38	25	1632
thru Mar.15:	1	8	8	2001	15	22	61	1	82	40	29	2268

Total fruit and vegetable inspections Mar. 1-15:- 683

Season totals through March 15:

Year:-	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
Cars:-	3720	2682	3170	2256	4242

4c. NOTICE TO INSPECTION OFFICES

We are in receipt of advice that Ambrose A. Lawler, owner of the Texas Distributing Company of Dallas, Texas, is now deceased. Unpaid bills against the Texas Distributing Company should be forwarded to the Washington office for collection.

The next four items have been taken from California "Inspectors' Notes," issued at Sacramento on March 27:-

5c. SAN DIEGO CELERY PRACTICALLY FINISHED

Only an occasional car of celery has been certified in the San Diego district the past week. Cauliflower will start moving from that section about April 1, with present indications that the quality will not be very good.

6c. WATSONVILLE LETTUCE STARTING

The first car of lettuce was certified in the Watsonville district this week, and graded U.S. No. 1. A few cars will move next week, with the probability that the following week a considerable amount will move.

7c. PHOENIX LETTUCE OF GOOD QUALITY

In a letter from Ed Ruch, he stated that they inspected 110 cars of lettuce in Arizona on the 25th of March and would have more the following day. The quality is about the best he has seen in the valley. The weather has been ideal for lettuce and he anticipates 10 days of heavy shipments.

8c. PEAS MOVING IN SAN JOSE-HAYWARD DISTRICT

Pea shipments are well under way in the San Jose-Hayward section, and during next week they should be going in full swing. A further increase in the inspection personnel is expected next week.

9c. ANNUAL REPORT OF UTAH SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS

L. S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, has recently published a 20-page mimeographed report, covering the record of inspections at shipping points in Utah during 1930. Practically 3,000 cars were inspected, compared with 1,632 cars in 1923. Total inspections were 83% of the total fruit and vegetable shipments from Utah points last year. About 20 products were inspected, potatoes leading with 870 cars, and apples totaling about 760. Complete statistical tables are given for each product. The inspection of cannery tomatoes was handled for the first time last season. About 580 tons of tomatoes were thus inspected. This work would have been heavier, had not a great part of the crop been destroyed by blight. Other inspectors who are interested in Mr. Fenn's report of the inspection work in Utah probably can obtain copies from Salt Lake City.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 1
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 1	Apr. 15
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables Strawberries Potatoes Beans	Nov. 5 Mar. 25 Apr. 25 Apr. 25	June 15 May 15 June 15 June 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	May 15
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1
	E. L. Ruch, 615 Security Bldg., Phoenix, Arizona	Lettuce	Mar. 10	Apr. 20
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1

REPORTS regarding Ohio shipping-point inspections can be obtained by addressing M. W. Baker, at our Columbus office.

Indiana and Michigan shipping-point inspection reports can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Court House, Warsaw, Indiana.

Reports regarding shipping-point inspections of Tennessee sweet-potatoes can be obtained from Nelson B. Rue, Division of Markets, Nashville.

Reports on vegetables from Winter Garden district of Texas can be had through the San Antonio office.

10c. ENCLOSURES FOR INSPECTORS

With this D.L., each inspector will receive copies of the following:-

"Texas Standards for Fruits and Vegetables and Fruit and Vegetables Containers, 1931 Revision," - a booklet of 110 pages.

Dept. of Agriculture Circular No. 8, entitled: "National Standards for Farm Products," - a bulletin of 52 pages.

This literature has been provided through Mr. Pailthorp's project in Standardization and Research.

R. C. BUTNER, Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Formal announcement has now been received of the marriage on March 28 of J. A. Marks, at Wilkinsburg, near Pittsburgh, Pa. The name of the bride was Miss Dorothy Margaret Bepler. Mr. and Mrs. Marks are spending this week at Springdale, Ark., and early next week will proceed to Alabama, where Mr. Marks will supervise the inspections of strawberries and other products, beginning about April 8. He will stop at Montgomery to confer with officials of the State Division of Markets, and wires can be addressed to him at Montgomery until notice is received of his field headquarters in Alabama.

L. E. Newcomer, of West Virginia, has been appointed as a Junior Marketing Specialist and reported for duty in the Atlanta office of the Market News Service on April 1. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Maryland in 1926, and has since been employed at various times as a licensed inspector of fruits and vegetables in the southeastern States.

Ralph E. Winfrey, of Arkansas, has also been appointed as a Junior Marketing Specialist, and will report for training in market news work at the Chicago office on April 13. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He has had several years' experience in farming, and during 1927, 1928 and 1929 served as a licensed inspector with the Federal-State inspection service at points in Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas.

Favorable weather has developed the Hastings, Fla., potato crop earlier than expected and our field station at that point will be opened on next Tuesday, April 7, instead of on the 13th, as originally scheduled. B. E. Surry is en route to Florida, and will stop at Jacksonville to confer with State officials, before proceeding to Hastings to issue the market reports on potatoes.

The Chicago inspection office was very busy last Tuesday, when 70 cars of potatoes had to be inspected, which were sold through the Chicago Mercantile Exchange as "futures" for March delivery. It was necessary to bring to Chicago for that day W. E. Phillips, of the Toledo office, and J. E. Dickerson, of the Indianapolis office, to assist with this special work.

W. D. Googe has gone from Fort Worth to Brownsville, Texas, and from there will proceed to Loredo, where he will open the field station on onions next Monday.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, expects to be at Washington, N.C., next Monday to discuss the 1931 potato situation with growers and shippers of North Carolina potatoes. He will proceed by Tuesday to Hastings, Fla., where he will remain during the greater part of the Florida shipping season. Mail for Mr. Mercker can be sent in care of B. E. Surry, of the market news office at Hastings.

R. M. Peterson expects to issue the last market report at Plant City next Thursday and move the field stationto Bradenton, Florida, where the service on vegetables will be continued for the benefit of West Coast sections.

NAMES FOR FIELD ROTS OF NORTHWESTERN APPLES

by L. F. Butler

EXPLANATORY:

The first field rot of northwestern apples encountered by the inspection service was Anthracnose. Later a rot having quite similar characteristics was designated as false anthracnose. Still later a third rot having the same general characteristics as the other two was reported and named Bull's Eye Rot, and recently a fourth rot having the same general symptoms has been found and called Hypochnus Rot.

Anthracnose Rot and Bull's Eye Rot are caused by two closely related fungi and are practically indistinguishable except by laboratory study. Both originate in the orchard, are affected similarly by temperature, and thus are of importance in practically the same way in claim controversies. Inasmuch as there is no apparent need from the standpoint of the inspection service for treating the two rots separately, they may be considered as one and included under the name Bull's Eye Rot. This name has been selected because the rot to which it has been formerly exclusively applied is more generally prevalent in the Northwest than Anthracnose.

Recent studies, as yet unpublished, justify the inclusion of False Anthracnose and Hypochnus Rot under one name. The name Fish Eye Rot is selected because it is used to designate Hypochnus Rot by members of the trade in eastern markets.

FUTURE POLICY:

Two names only will be applied to field rots of northwestern apples. The following characteristics are given to assist in diagnosis:

BULL'S EYE ROT.	FISH EYE ROT.
Confined to the Northwest.	Occurs on eastern as well as western apples.
Skin over lesion with a tan to greenish center and usually a dark border.	Skin over lesion with a tan to dark brown center and a dark border.
Decayed flesh brown and mealy; approximately as moist as normal tissue.	Decayed flesh brown and spongy or stringy; appreciably less moist than normal tissue.
Lesions not appreciably nor sharply depressed.	Lesions commonly appreciably and sharply depressed.
Superficial growth of fungus, when present, very scant and tufted.	Superficial growth of fungus, when present, usually spreading and forming a delicate, white, cobwebby mat.
Not found following scab.	Sometimes found following scab.

This discussion applies only to apples from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. All specimens found on the markets showing the general symptoms that cannot be identified by the above characteristics should be mailed to the pathologists for diagnosis.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 15 April 10, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. AN IMPORTANT WORD OF CAUTION TO ALL EMPLOYEES

Following is the substance of a recent memorandum addressed to all division leaders of the Bureau by Mr. Olsen, Chief of Bureau:-

"Recently there came to the attention of the Bureau a statement made by a licensed inspector, which praised the equipment used by a particular firm and commended the quality of the products sold by that concern. The statement of the inspector was used in connection with a newspaper advertising campaign, being carried on by the comany in question.

"Obviously such statements are improper. Representatives of the Bureau, regardless of the capacity in which they serve, must at all times take an impartial attitude toward users of our services. The value of our inspection and grading work depends largely upon its impartial and disinterested character. Therefore no statement or interview which might be construed as an endorsement of any particular firm, especially when it is known that the statement is desired for public use, should be given without specific approval from Washington."

Field representatives should give proper instruction regarding this matter to all employees, including licensed inspectors working under their supervision.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. MOVEMENT OF FLORIDA CITRUS EXPECTED TO BREAK ALL RECORDS

H. F. Willson sent the following interesting report from Winter Haven on April 7:-

"Florida citrus is well on its way to a 70,000-car crop for the present season, and many are of the opinion that it will exceed this figure if market conditions are favorable. Figuring on a basis of 360 boxes to the car this means 25,200,000 boxes, and the prevailing practice is heavier loading than 360 boxes. The present season's shipments will undoubtedly break all previous records by at least 7,000 cars and possibly by 10,000 cars. In 1928-29 over 63,000 cars of Florida citrus were shipped and this figure was a decided increase over the previous record movement of 56,653 cars in 1923-24.

"When the added volume of truck shipments this season over that of previous years is taken into consideration, the 1930-31 season record is more impressive. Although there are no accurate figures on truck movement available, one commercial estimate, based on a check at the leading trunk highways for a very brief period, placed this movement for the season at 1,680,000 boxes or the equivalent of over 4,500 cars. This would be in excess of the 70,000 cars mentioned above."

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. ABOUT 265 CARS OF ARIZONA LETTUCE SHIPPED IN ONE DAY

A. E. Prugh wrote as follows from Phoenix, Arizona, on April 3:-

"The shipping peak for Arizona lettuce came on March 25, after a maximum temperature of around 90° had prevailed for four days. On that day, 240 cars were shipped from the Phoenix district, including Buckeye and Eloy, and 26 from the Yuma section, or a total of 266 cars. The maximum temperature dropped to 77° on the 25th after light showers and cool weather brought on for several days the best quality that ever moved from Salt River Valley. Of the 111 cars inspected in the Phoenix district on March 26, about 68 graded U.S. No. 1 and 33 cars 85% U.S. No. 1 grade.

"Yuma quality was generally good this spring, and sold at a considerable premium for the first ten days over shipments from the Phoenix district. This deal has also been seriously affected by the last thousand cars of mostly ordinary quality from Imperial Valley, some of which is still selling at low prices on the eastern markets.

"Shipments will be heavy to small sizes after this week. The market is expected to advance to $2.25 by April 6, as shipments should drop sharply next week and may not average 125 per day. This deal started early and is expected to end early. Arizona shipments from March 1 to April 2 have totaled 2,914 cars. Movement to the same date in 1930 was 2,488 and two years ago 599 cars. Total spring movement was 4,717 cars in 1930 and 4,341 in 1929.

"Reports from Salinas, Calif., indicate that very few cars will move from there until after April 20." - (Editor's note:- The cash-track price did not advance beyond $2 the early part of this week."

2b. FLORIDA CELERY SEASON BEGINNING TO WANE

J. B. Owens wrote as follows from Sanford, Florida, in a letter of April 6:-

"The end of the Florida celery season, so far as the Sanford-Oviedo district is concerned, is plainly in view. Seed-stalks have developed in practically every field, and it is now only a question of being able to harvest as much of the crop as possible before these stalks have developed too far for the stock to be marketable. Evidence of the efforts being made to move the crop as quickly as possible is shown by the shipments for last week, when this district alone shipped 700 cars. Had it not rained on Tuesday (March 31), the total might easily have been 800 cars. The movement for this current week will probably be heavier than that of the past week, if there are no interruptions from bad weather. After this week, there will be a decided decrease in shipments, with the season coming to a close about the first of May.

"The stock being shipped now is mostly fair quality, with very few cars being able to pass the U.S. No. 1 grade, and in the next few days there will be very little stock going out under the first labels.

"Demand has fallen off considerably and, while the shippers are maintaining the same prices, the situation is somewhat unsettled. Until the past few days, around 90% of the shipments had been direct sales from shipping point."

3b. STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION in seven second-early States may be 55,288,000 quarts, or just about the same as last year.

4b. FIVE MILLION BOXES OF APPLES EXPORTED THROUGH SEATTLE

An interesting letter of April 3 from T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, is published below:-

"Activity in the Yakima Valley market for old potatoes has continued almost without abatement throughout the week. The loading of the box of apples, marking the forwarding of an impressive total of 5,000,000 boxes of our 1930 crop to pass through the Port of Seattle to the export markets of the world, has been attended by appropriate ceremonies. And clearing skies have come at a most opportune time to do their part toward reminding people of the approaching Easter; dealers and gardeners are well stocked with the symbolic Easter lily and various cut flowers for the occasion, while the markets are featuring early vegetables, fresh strawberries and other delicacies. With products ranging from the common-place potato to the symbolic Easter lily, market features of the past week are of interest to people of diverse inclinations and tastes.

"The shipping-point market for potatoes has been relatively firm. Trade estimates place the holdings yet remaining in the Yakima Valley at 1,000 to 1,200 cars, including all grades. Well-graded U.S. No. 1 stocks are undoubtedly scarce, and the Washington Combination grade is the one of most interest. The commercial grades and U.S. No. 2 are meeting a fair demand from nearby markets. The movement of U.S. No. 1 and Washington Combination grades is toward the east and into California, and the ruling price for U.S. No. 1 potatoes is around $22, some bright well-sorted stock commanding $24, while Washington Combinations range from $18 to $20 sacked per ton, cash to grower. The other grades are proportionately lower.

"The unprecedented total of 5,000,000 boxes of northwestern apples has moved to the export markets of the world through Port Seattle since last August. The box marking this volume was forwarded to Hamburg, Germany, for to that port goes the honor of receiving the largest number of boxes of the 1930 crop which were loaded aboard ship at the Seattle water terminal. Various State and city civic bodies were represented in the ceremony which took place in Seattle on April 2, and the box, together with the mementos that go with it, will be auctioned upon arrival at its destination in Germany,

"Substantiating the position held by the Puget Sound country in the bulb industry, a significant feature of the past week has been the forwarding by one concern of a shipment consisting of 1,000 pots of Easter lilies to Alaska, and from 15,000 to 20,000 cut daffodils by another organization into the Dakotas, Montana, and Canadian markets for the Easter trade. Quantities of these flowers are being offered this Good Friday by street vendors, produce merchants and florists; so Seattle homes, churches and other public places will undoubtedly be well decorated during the approaching religious holiday."

5b. HIGHER PRICES EXPECTED FOR MAINE POTATOES

The following letter was received under date of April 6 from W. D. Hull, at Presque Isle:-

"During the past week, the Maine potato market suffered an anti-climax, brought on by the heavy buying of the preceding week. Outside demand was very slow throughout the entire week, but the depth of the depression occurred on Wednesday, when even the largest operators reported little or

no business transacted during the day. Practically all the shippers were firm in their demand for a price which would net them $1.60 f.o.b. per cwt. sacked. Undoubtedly they could have made more sales, if they had been willing to shade the price 5¢-10¢ per sack, but nearly all of them had bought rather freely of $2.35-$2.50 potatoes (in 150-pound sacks) and were not very keen about letting them go at prices which would not assure them of at least an even break on their investment.

"A very strong feeling prevailed among the growers and they were insistent in their demands for $2.50 per barrel during the fore part of the week. Shippers were unwilling to purchase at that price, in view of an unsteady and declining market, so that there was very little activity on the street until the last of the week. By Friday the condition of the roads had improved, which made it possible for the growers to haul in a few potatoes, that sold for $2.25-$2.35, with an occasional load bringing as high as $2.50. Receipts at all warehouses were unusually light, especially in the northern part of the country where there was more snow in the roads. Some growers sold small lots of potatoes that they had stored in shippers' warehouses at loading points, but even the stock obtained in this way did not compare favorably with the receipts under normal conditions.

"On Friday and Saturday there was a very slight improvement in wire-inquiry and demand, which put the shippers in a more optimistic frame of mind, with the result that the street price was generally $2.50 all day Saturday. However, there was no material increase in warehouse receipts. All the shippers expect increased buying activity during the coming week, especially when the Hebrew holidays are over. Now that the market has reached $2.50 again, some of the growers with only a little stock on hand are talking about $3 potatoes and seem to believe that they will get it before the season is over.

"The market for certified Green Mountains has been draggy during the past two weeks. Demand has come mostly from New York, Pennsylvania and southern New England points. Prices are about unchanged, being around $2.75-$3 for 11-peck sacks, f.o.b. shipping point."

6b. TEXAS BERMUDA ONIONS NOW MOVING TO MARKET

The following letter of April 5 came from C. D. Schoolcraft, in charge of the Brownsville office:-

"With the exception of snap beans, the vegetable market in the lower Rio Grande Valley has been very draggy during the past week. Bean haulings have been light and for the greater part of the time have not been sufficient to meet the demand.

"About 15 straight cars of onions were shipped during the week. Most of these were rather immature and would grade only fair commercials. Quality is expected to improve during the coming week, with most shipments making good commercial grade. There has been little rain to damage the crop. Price on the early shipments were at a much lower level than for the same period last year, and the general opinion here is that these prices will not hold long.

"The cabbage market has been very draggy, with prices around $7-$8 per ton, carloads f.o.b. usual terms. Shipments from the Valley decreased slightly to an average of around 75 cars a day. Best information leads me to believe that, with a fair market, shipments from the State can continue at a fairly high level for about three weeks."

7b. A DISAPPOINTING END TO THE MICHIGAN ONION SEASON

R. E. Keller wrote as follows from Grand Rapids in a letter dated April 4:-

"Warm, spring weather is rapidly terminating Michigan's late onion deal. While there are approximately 300 to 375 cars of onions in storage, it appears very likely that only a portion of these will be shipped. To move this volume, the shipments would have to pick up to 25 or 30 cars a day for the next two weeks, and still there would be a few scattering cars left for late-April markets. Heavy shrinkage, due to sprouting and decay, will eliminate a part of the remaining tonnage, and it is likely that a portion of the fair-quality and fair-condition stock will have to be dumped. Onion shipments the past week have been light; yet the markets have all showed declines in price. Shippers offer the explanation that all the speculative feature has been eliminated from the deal by the anticipation of large shipments in the near future from Texas; so purchases now are largely for immediate consumption, and the resulting 'hand-to-mouth' buying has depressed the clean-up of the deal.

"Shipment of seed potatoes was quite active last week. Destination records show that about half of the 119 cars moved were seed stock. The movement of table stock was very light, going mostly to Michigan points."

8b. RECENT NEWS ON IDAHO POTATOES

A letter of April 3 from L. C. Tate, at Idaho Falls, contains the following information:-

"Idaho potatoes have had several ups and downs during the last three weeks. At present the market is dull, buyers having been very active last week and owning the bulk of the potatoes that have been loaded during the first half of the current week. Shipping-point trading was very active last Thursday, and loaded cars brought an average of $1.10 cash track. Since then, prices have lowered, and today's sales of No. 1 Russets brought mostly $1 cash track. Only a few buyers were in the market, others stating that their connections were not interested in buying until lower levels were reached.

"On April 1, there were probably 7,000 or more cars of potatoes yet to be marketed from Idaho. Another new record of loadings was set up last Saturday, when 315 cars were billed to market."

9b. CODE ADDITION (Effective April 16)

On the "PA"(Potatoes) page of the code, add the following:

IL - combination pack
IM - combination pack, plain bags

These terms apply at the present time particularly to Idaho potatoes. They differ from the grade term "PEN - combination grade" in that the only grade requirement for Idaho plain-bag shipments is that the potatoes shall not be below U.S. No. 2, while a combination grade specifies a certain minimum percentage of U.S. No. 1 potatoes. Mr. Tate, at Idaho Falls, advises that the plain-bag shipments from that State at present are mostly made up of a cellar-run combination of U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 potatoes, but with no definite percentage of either grade. There is no 'commercial' grade recognized in Idaho, and such a term should not be used in market quotations.

10b. ANNUAL LEAVE FOR FIELD MEN (REPLY)

Please advise the Washington office at once as to when you wish to take annual leave, so that plans can be made for relief. Some men will be available for this work as early as June. State first, second and third choices as to periods when you desire leave, because it may not be possible to grant leave during the time of your first choice.

A reply is requested from all market-news men before May 1.

11b. LOUISIANA BERRY SEASON BECOMING ACTIVE

R. L. Sutton wrote as follows from Hammond in a letter of April 7:-

"The quality and condition of the strawberries now being shipped from Louisiana is quite generally good. The berries are taking on the proper amount of color, the flavor is improving, and the size continues satisfactory. The yield promises to be an exceptional one. Plants in most fields are laden with fruit. The nights continue rather cool, with the past two days offering bright sunshine but slightly windy. Acreage in Louisiana shows very little change, the 24,000 acres of this season being about 600 under that of last year. The indicated yield, however, of 2,600 pints per acre is 300 greater than last season.

"The berries from this district are loaded almost exclusively in 24-pint ventilated crates. In contrast with the usual methods of f.o.b. wire or cash-track sales, the output from this section is sold by auction nightly. At the present time, there are two auction companies operating, which handle at least 95% of the shipments. A third organization is here and will start its auction within a few days. These auction companies have large assembly-rooms, where the buyers congregate for the bidding on the cars. At the present time, there are about 40 buyers here. Usually, as the season progresses, the number increases to 75 or more.

"The f.o.b. market was active last night. About 30 cars were offered and sold on the auctions. Bidding was spirited, the sales ranging from $3.50 to $4, averaging $3.75½ per 24-pint crate. These cars of berries realized from $2,500 to $3,000 per car."

12b. LATE NEWS ON WESTERN NEW YORK APPLES AND POTATOES

A. L. Thomas wrote a letter from Rochester on April 7, parts of which are quoted below:-

"The domestic demand for apples has been fairly good, but the export trading has dropped off considerably. The season for exporting New York State apples has about ended, and exporters are leaving the district. One English representative, who has been here the entire season, left this week and requested us to mail our market report to him at Liverpool. Cold-storage holdings are lighter at this time than they have been in the last few seasons, according to some of the reliable dealers.

"There has been a firm undertone to the potato market this week. Growers are receiving from 75¢ to 85¢ per bushel but are reluctant to sell at this price, most of them holding for $1. Country dealers report that holdings in the growers' hands are much lighter than at this time last year."

IMPERIAL VALLEY of California expects a crop of early cantaloupes which will start moving in car-lots by April 20. Plantings are 51,640 acres.

13b. ANOTHER LONG-DISTANCE RECORD MADE BY MOTOR TRUCK

It seems to be the fashion in these days for one producing section of the United States to try to outdo others in the matter of hauling products a long distance by motor truck. R. E. Keller, of the Grand Rapids office, submitted the following interesting report of -

Michigan Onions Hauled to Florida.

What is believed to be the longest business trip ever made by a Michigan produce trucker was completed on Wednesday, March 25, when the president of the Grand Rapids Truckers Association returned from Florida with a load of 100 bushels of grapefruit and 40 bushels of oranges. On the southward journey, 100 bushels of Michigan onions were hauled to the central part of Florida. The round-trip of 2,500 miles was made in seven days, but it is believed that, with two drivers, the trip to Florida and return could be made in five days.

The man who made this experimental long-distance trip found good roads practically all of the way. He traveled via South Bend, Ind.; Louisville, Ky.; Nashville, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala. His load of citrus fruit sold briskly on his return, as all of the fruit arrived in good condition. The grapefruit brought $1 per bushel and the oranges $1.75 per bushel. It was believed that he could have sold much larger quantities of these fruits, if he had been able to bring a heavier load.

Mr. Keller, in his letter of transmittal, added that truckers from Grand Rapids and other points in Michigan have been taking onions and celery from the swamp sections of the State to points in Kentucky and Tennessee all during the winter, returning with sweet-potatoes and whatever other southern produce they could find.

14b. REPORTS ON FUTURES SALES OF POTATOES

Futures sales of potatoes for October delivery, which are now being made on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, do not specify any particular State of origin for Round Whites. It may sometimes be understood between buyer and seller from what State or States the Round Whites are to be shipped, and many of the trade have been regarding October futures as referring to Idaho Round Whites as well as Russets. There is nothing on the Exchange records, however, to indicate that such sales are of Idahos only, and, in fact, it is probable that deliveries will be made on Round Whites from various States.

In order that there may be no confusion in the interpretation of such quotations on the daily market reports, the following headings and arrangement should be used by all offices:

FUTURES:

ROUND WHITES: 100-lb. Sacks, U.S. No.1. OCTOBER Delivery- etc.

RUSSET BURBANKS: 100-lb. Sacks, U.S. No.1. IDAHO; APRIL delivery- - - - - OCTOBER Delivery- etc.

If other varieties or additional States are specified in later sales they can then be added accordingly, continuing the same arrangement.

SEE Par. 15b on Page 243.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas H. S. Duncan	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions	Sept. 3	Apr. 15
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage*	Sept. 3	Mar. 28*
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	June 6
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Apr. 15
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 16
			Peppers	Dec. 19	Apr. 16
			Tomatoes	Jan. 16	Apr. 16
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach*	Jan. 5	Mar. 7*
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 20	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 30	May 15
			Onions	Apr. 6	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 25
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Mar. 18	Apr. 18
HAMMOND, LA., P.O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 15
LAREDO, TEXAS**	801	W. D. Googe	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23
HASTINGS, FLA.**	851	B. E. Surry	Potatoes	Apr. 8	May 20
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS**	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 13	May 23
BRADENTON, FLA.**	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	May 29
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
BELLE GLADE, FLA.**	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Apr. 20	May 16
			Peppers	Apr. 20	May 16
			Tomatoes	Apr. 20	May 16
CHADBOURN, N.C.**	805	A. M. McDowell	Stbr.	Apr. 27	May 16
The following station closed on date indicated:					
PLANT CITY, FLA.** Hotel Plant	850	R. M. Peterson	Stbr.	Jan. 5	Apr. 9
			Vegs.	Jan. 5	Apr. 9

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox at San Francisco

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. LOW TEMPERATURES AND HEAVY RAINFALL IN THE NORTHWEST

Two interesting letters have been received from F. E. Bailey, of the Yakima office. The first was dated April 1 and reads as follows:-

"The recent cold spell in eastern Washington, which was a freeze and not a frost, reached its minimum on the night of March 27, with official orchard temperatures being reported around Yakima of 23° and in one locality as low as 21°. In the vicinity of Yakima, which is in central Washington, the skies were generally cloudy during this period, which aided in reducing the damage. However, it is reported that apricots, some varieties of which were in full bloom, have been damaged to some extent and that cherries have also been injured in the Yakima Valley. Possibly a somewhat comparable situation exists in the Wenatchee district, which is also in central Washington. In the Yakima district a cold wind of moderate velocity blew during a considerable part of the low-temperature period.

"It is reported that the Walla Walla and Clarkston districts, in eastern Washington, had similar temperatures but clearer skies during this period. This, together with the fact that these sections are lower in altitude and therefore slightly earlier than Yakima, possibly justifies reports that the early soft fruits suffered more there than in the vicinity of Yakima.

"The Spokane section is also in eastern Washington but at an elevation of around 2,000 feet. Since it is therefore of a later season, the buds possibly are not far enough advanced to have suffered much.

"With a rainfall of .73 of an inch during a 24-hour period beginning on the evening of March 30, the moisture situation in the Yakima Valley, which looked bad during the winter, has been decidedly improved. According to the records of the Yakima office of the U.S. Weather Bureau, there was more precipitation during this period than during any other 24-hour period since December, 1928. This comparatively heavy precipitation, together with the present prospect that more will be received, also has an ameliorating effect on the frost situation, and there appears to be little immediate danger from frost.

"The recent rains were quite general over the southern half of eastern Washington. Walla Walla officially reported 1.5 inches of precipitation during the 24-hour period beginning March 30.

"North-central Washington, or the Wenatchee-Okanogan district, had more winter precipitation than usual and was not threatened with any shortage of moisture, as has been the case in south-central area until recently."

Mr. Bailey's second letter, dated April 3, tells about the flood conditions in southeastern Washington:-

"When writing to you on April 1, I did not realize that the mountainous country east of Walla Walla in southeastern Washington had had over three inches of rainfall during a 24-hour period beginning March 30, which resulted in a flood that damaged several million dollars worth of property in Walla Walla.

"The water, flowing down the canyons, became raging torrents. Mill Creek, usually a small stream flowing through the center of the city, tore out every bridge but one and flooded the main streets to a depth of three

feet, so it is reported. Fire-stations, hotels, business houses, and the two daily newspapers had their basements and main floors flooded. Schools and banks are closed and business in the city of Walla Walla is at a standstill. One of the main residence streets is reported to resemble a river bed.

"Considerable damage was also done in the country and it is said that many acres of garden lands, which produce summer onions, spinach, and other vegetables, were ruined. These same floods damaged property in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, which produces many cars of prunes, cherries and other fruits.

"The main line of the Union Pacific Railway east of Pendleton was washed out for several hundred yards, cutting off freight traffic over this line from Washington and Oregon. Yakima shippers are now billing practically all of their eastern shipments over the Northern Pacific, as the Union Pacific will accept no shipments except 'subject to delay.' At the present time, rail transportation into Walla Walla is still cut off in all directions, as are all highways."

2c. WORK RAPIDLY IN CARS OF STRAWBERRIES AND OTHER HIGHLY-PERISHABLE PRODUCTS

Complaint has been made regarding the length of time some inspectors keep the car doors open. It is contended by some that keeping the doors open long enough to inspect strawberries damages them by allowing the cool air to get out and warm air to take its place. Inspectors should therefore work rapidly and not keep the car doors open any longer than actually necessary to make a thorough inspection. Do not keep the doors open while writing notes, before starting the inspection and after completing the inspection. It is believed that most cars of strawberries can be inspected for condition in about 30 minutes, and, if the doors are not kept open any longer, no damage will result to the berries. Do everything possible to prevent criticism of the service.

3c. WARNING REGARDING APPEAL INSPECTIONS

Appeal inspection certificates reversing the original should never be based upon the examination of 25-pound samples of potatoes. The safest plan would be to examine whole sacks of potatoes and, in cases where this is not possible, at least 50 pounds in each sack should be scored. It should be remembered that three pounds of defective potatoes in a 25-pound sample amounts to 12%, and by examining 25 pounds more it sometimes happens that the percentage of defects is reduced to 8% or 10%. It all depends upon the examination of samples that are representative, and the larger the samples examined the more dependable will the result be. In no case should a shipping-point certificate be reversed as to grade, when samples of only 25 pounds have been examined. If it is not possible to examine whole sacks, - which would be a very exceptional case, - at least two bucketfuls or 50 pounds should constitute the sample in each sack examined.

TEXAS BERMUDA ONION CROP is forecast at 3,491,625 bushels, compared with 3,359,600 last spring. Yields will be lower but acreage is greater than in 1930. Louisiana expects a crop one-fifth larger than last year.

4c. CARE IN WIRING FOR INFORMATION REGARDING INSPECTIONS

The initials, car number, product, date of list on which car number appears, and the place and date of shipping-point inspection should all be included in wires requesting shipping-point certificate information. Sometimes not all of these facts are available, but when possible they should all be given, in order to avoid mistakes due to duplications of car numbers.

5c. MAKE TWO SETS OF CERTIFICATE COPIES FOR WASHINGTON

In sending certificate copies to Washington, most offices have been folding all certificates together, making it necessary to separate the two copies of each certificate in this office. This delays the filing and, in order to expedite such work, it is requested that each office make two sets of certificate copies sent here, with all certificates in each set folded together. Some offices have been following this plan for sometime and the matter should be called to the immediate attention of stenographers who handle the forwarding of certificates and copies. When only two copies of one certificate are sent in they may be folded together, but four or more copies should be separated into two sets.

6c. CHECKING UNPAID FEE BILLS

When one inspector relieves another in charge of a market, he should insist that the inspection-fee accounts balance before assuming charge of the office. The uncollected balance should be actually checked with the unpaid fee bills in the files every month before the monthly statement is sent in. It is not sufficient to establish a new unpaid balance merely by addition and subtraction. The result should be checked with the unpaid fee bills on hand in order to be sure that no mistake has been made.

7c. HEAVY INSPECTION WORK IN ARIZONA

A letter from H. W. Peterson, of the California staff, reports that "there has been a very considerable increase in the inspection work in Arizona this season. In the Phoenix district, 80 to 100 cars of lettuce have been inspected each day, while a few days have run higher. In the Yuma district, from 15 to 25 cars per day have been inspected. Mr. Ruch, at Phoenix, advises me that there will probably be a considerable decrease in shipments and inspections during the present week, April 6-11."

8c. LARGE NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS IN IDAHO

The report of March inspections at shipping points in Idaho shows a total of nearly 4,000 cars for the month and a grand total of 29,561 inspections from July 1, 1930, to March 31, 1931. L. G. Schultz, Supervising Inspector, calls attention to the fact that this total to date is 4,815 cars more than were ever inspected in Idaho during any entire fiscal year previous to this time. He believes that the final total for the current fiscal year will be close to 35,000 cars.

NORTH CAROLINA expects 12,000,000 quarts of strawberries this season, or fully one-fifth more than last spring.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 1
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 1	May 1
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, Hammond, La.	Strawberries	Apr. 1	Apr. 25
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	May 15
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1
	E. L. Ruch, 615 Security Bldg., Phoenix, Arizona	Lettuce	Mar. 10	Apr. 20
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, c/o State Div. of Markets, Montgomery, Ala.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 8 Apr. 20	May 1 June 15

REPORTS regarding Ohio shipping-point inspections can be obtained by addressing M. W. Baker, at our Columbus office.

Indiana and Michigan shipping-point inspection reports can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Court House, Warsaw, Indiana.

Reports regarding shipping-point inspections of Tennessee sweet-potatoes can be obtained from Nelson B. Rue, Division of Markets, Nashville.

Reports on vegetables from Winter Garden district of Texas can be had through the San Antonio office.

9c. REVISED GRADES FOR CANNERY SPINACH

With this D.L., each inspector will receive a copy of the revised U.S. Standards for Fresh Spinach for Canning.

10c. INJURY CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO AMMONIA

"Injury to Onions and Fruits Caused by Exposure to Ammonia" is the title of a reprint from the Journal of Agricultural Research, Sept. 15, 1928. Authors are Dr. G. B. Ramsey and Dr. L. F. Butler, of the B.P.I. staff. Copies of this reprint are being sent to all inspectors with this D.L.

11c. GOOD RECORD FOR INSPECTION SERVICE IN NEW JERSEY

In a recent letter from W. C. Lynn, of the Trenton office, he says that New Jersey inspection work is about finished for this season. To March 28, about 1,500 inspections had been recorded. Great strides have been made particularly in the inspections of apples. Export and domestic trade demands for inspected apples have been primarily responsible for the activity along this line in New Jersey, and the growers themselves have been won over to the adoption of the grades for this fruit. Of the 237,808 bushels of apples covered by inspections, - approximately 60% of which have been exported this season,- 92% met No. 1 requirements as to grade defects, but fell into different grades depending on color. The relative proportions are shown in the following tabulation:-

U.S. No. 1.....	64%	U.S. No. 1 Early.....	8%
Comb. U.S. No. 1 & Coml.	16%	U.S. Commercial.....	4%

One or more inspections were made for some 50 to 60 growers, practically all of these growers being new in the use of U.S. grades. It is felt that the apple industry of New Jersey has been well penetrated, both educationally and in a practical way. Mr. Lynn advises that the cooperative inspection service has been assured of a summer apple deal this year, starting in July. Because of the State's advantageous position as an exporter of apples, it is believed that there will be considerable work also on fall and winter apples. If the peach crop turns out well, as now expected, quite a number of inspections of peaches will be made. Potato inspections, also, are a large factor in New Jersey.

12c. ANNUAL REPORT OF WORK IN CALIFORNIA

The annual report of the California Department of Agriculture for the year 1929 was unavoidably delayed in publication. Copies have been received in Washington this week. It is an excellent illustrated report of 150 pages, published as the December, 1929, issue of the Monthly Bulletin of that Department. The report of the Bureau of Fruit and Vegetable Standardization is given by S.S. Rogers, Chief. The report for the Bureau of Shipping-Point Inspection is presented by W. F. Allewelt, Chief, and the report for the Division of Markets (including market-news service) is given by E. W. Gaumnitz, Acting Chief. Those interested probably can obtain copies of this annual report for 1929 from Sacramento, California.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. CONNECTICUT MAN FINED FOR USE OF ILLEGAL CONTAINERS

On March 20 in the United States District Court at Hartford, Connecticut, Louis G. Tolles, Master of the Connecticut State Grange, changed a former plea of "guilty" to one of "nolo contendere." The court found him guilty on two counts of offering for sale apples in illegal 14-quart hampers. Judge Carroll B. Hincks imposed a fine of $5 without costs on the first count and $100 on the second count. Judgment on the second count was suspended and the fine remitted. Tolles, however, was placed on probation with Professor Albert Levitt of Redding, Conn. Judge Hincks, in speaking from the bench, said that the light fine imposed in this case was not to be considered as a precedent.

2e. ILLEGAL BASKETS IN ALABAMA DESTROYED BY BURNING

T. C. J. Baker, of the Standard Container project, has been making a general survey of fruit and vegetable containers throughout the southern States and he reports the finding of some 3,000 illegal six-quart diamond-weave splint baskets in the possession of R. Leaf, commission merchant of Birmingham, Alabama. As nearly as could be determined in the absence of definite records, the baskets were purchased by Leaf sometime prior to November 1, 1929, the effective date of the Standard Container Act of 1928. The case was settled, as far as the possession of the baskets by Leaf is concerned, by his voluntary offer to destroy the baskets in Baker's presenc Mr. Baker reports that the baskets were duly burned in his presence, and he is tracing back to determine whether the sale of the baskets to Leaf was in violation of the Standard Container Act.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman expects to leave Washington on Monday evening for points in the North Central States and elsewhere. He will visit especially Chicag Minneapolis, and Fargo, to confer with State officials and Bureau employees regarding cooperative agreements and the future program of work. He may be absent six or eight days.

After 13 years of very faithful and efficient service in the Washington offices of the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Miss Julia Collier is transferring today to the office of Miss Emily Clark, in charge of estimate and special reports for the Chief of Bureau. From 1918 to 1923, Miss Collier was connected with the Market News Service, and since 1923 she has been in the office of the Head Clerk of our Division, being associated with Mrs. Mills in this latter work.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture, at Trenton, has issued a mimeographed summary on the 1930 potato season in that State.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

J. Wm. Park, who is assisting temporarily with work in the Farmers' Seed Loan Office, has gone on a short trip to Jackson, Miss. Prior to the convention of the National Pecan Marketing Association at Jackson next week, Mr. Park will confer with a special committee regarding grades for pecans.

Robert Bier returned to Washington from his southern trip on April 5. He reports having made satisfactory arrangements for shipping-point inspection work in the South and says that a large volume of work will be handled this spring.

G. W. Winfrey, of the New Orleans office, has gone to Hammond, La., where he will assist H. S. Moles in the supervision of shipping-point inspections of strawberries for the next two or three weeks.

C. D. Shirley, of the Houston inspection office, will take part on April 16 in the Vegetable Grading Short Course of the Texas A. and M. College, to be held at Houston on April 16 and 17. He will give an address on "Grading and Packing Texas Vegetables," and will illustrate his talk by practical demonstrations.

J. G. Cross, member of the Washington staff in charge of contacts with transportation companies, went to a Richmond hospital for an operation last Monday. Word from his bedside on Wednesday indicates that he is getting along nicely and he probably will return soon to Washington.

V. H. Nicholson expects to move his field headquarters from Miami to Belle Glade, Florida, at the end of next week, from which point he will continue to issue market reports on vegetables for another month.

R. G. Risser left the Chicago office early this week and proceeded to Texas. After visiting representatives of our Division in San Antonio and Laredo, Mr. Risser will go to Crystal City, Texas, where he will operate the field station on onions, beginning next Monday.

(continued from Page 235)

15b. COPIES OF MIMEOGRAPHED REPORTS NEEDED

All offices, both field and market stations, are requested to forward to the Washington office at an early date 40 copies of each regular report issued, of one day only. Please mail these to Miss Mabelle Lewis. Do not overlook this request.

B. C. B.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 16 April 17, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. GRADING AND CERTIFICATION OF CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The Agricultural Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1932 provides $30,000 for developing a service for the grading and certification of canned fruits and vegetables. Grades have been promulgated for use in the administration of the United States Warehouse Act for several canned vegetables, and considerable work has been done in the Warehouse Division on other canned fruits and vegetables. It is believed, however, that with the extensive inspection service now available for fresh fruits and vegetables the new service can be developed by the Fruit and Vegetable Division at less cost than if developed under the Warehouse Act. By a memorandum issued by Mr. Olsen on March 31, this new activity has accordingly been assigned to the Fruit and Vegetable Division.

Paul M. Williams (formerly of our F.&V. staff) and Loyde M. Billman, now members of the Warehouse Division, will transfer to the Fruit and Vegetable Division on July 1, when the new appropriation becomes available. Examinations have been announced by the Civil Service Commission for the positions of Associate Marketing Specialist (Canned Foods) and Assistant Marketing Specialist (Canned Foods) as a result of which is is expected to obtain additional personnel.

Considerable preparatory work will be done prior to July 1, including plans for handling the numerous details involved and the drafting of necessary rules and regulations. In the development of this service, careful consideration will be given to the needs of the Warehouse Division in the grading of canned foods and vegetables stored in licensed warehouses.

In addition to the work which has been done in the Warehouse Division, in establishing grades for canned fruits and vegetables, it will be necessary to provide standards for all of these products which are of commercial importance.

It is anticipated that, to an increasing extent, contracts of purchasing departments of the Government will be based primarily upon the grades recommended by this Department, and that deliveries will be required according to the inspection and certification of this Bureau.

The number of points outside of Washington at which the grading service on canned fruits and vegetables will be undertaken will depend upon the demand which develops, but the number will necessarily be small during the next fiscal year.

It is of interest to note that Paul M. Williams, of the Warehouse Division, discussed the coding, warehousing, and grading of canned foods under the U.S. Warehouse Act at a meeting of the Tri-State Packers Association in Baltimore, Md., on April 10.

2a. GRADES FOR CANNERY CHERRIES APPROVED IN NEW YORK STATE

At a meeting of 30 New York State cherry canners and cold packers in Rochester on April 7, it was unanimously voted to adopt the proposed U.S. grades for cannery cherries. Twenty-four canners asked for inspection on the basis of these grades during the coming season.

3a. APPLE COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS, APRIL 1

Below is the April 1 report of cold-storage holdings of apples, which was released in Washington on last Monday:

	Apr. 1, 1931	Apr. 1, 1930	Five-year Avg.
Barrels: -	201,000	481,000	845,000
Boxes: -	6,835,000	4,790,000	4,920,000
Baskets: -	1,300,000	1,555,000	1,077,000

About 65% of the boxes were still held in Pacific Coast States. The total holdings under refrigeration were equivalent to 2,913,000 barrels, or 12% more than last April and 2% above average.

4a. AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY REVIEW

The Washington office prepares a monthly market review of fruits and vegetables, a copy of which appears regularly in "American Fruit Grower" magazine. In the April issue, this review for the first time is illustrated with pictures of fruits or vegetables, mentioned in the text. The April issue also contains an illustrated article by Brice Edwards on the motor truck in the small-fruit industry.

5a. ANOTHER BULLETIN ON APPLES

"Marketing Apples Grown in the Cumberland-Shenandoah Region" is the subject treated in Tech. Bul. 234, now off the press. It is a cooperative bulletin of which C. R. Swinson is the senior author. Members of this Bureau who are mentioned in the footnote are: S. W. Mendum, J. W. Park, and M. R. Cooper. This is one of the series of publications which the Bureau is issuing from time to time on various phases of the apple industry.

6a. ORANGE JUICE DISTRIBUTION

According to an item in the New York Evening Post some days ago, ten refrigerator cars of orange juice, totaling 60,000 gallons squeezed from 2,500,000 oranges, were being shipped from the Tampa plant of the National Juice Company, subsidiary of National Dairy Products, to cities selected for experimental distribution on milk routes,- New York, New Haven, Buffalo, Erie and Cleveland. The juice will be packed in half-pint and quart containers and be delivered in milk wagons and trucks equipped for icing, according to this dispatch.

In this connection, it may be of interest to know that one of the large dairy companies in Washington, D.C., has arranged to distribute this frozen orange juice to its customers, beginning this Saturday.

F. S. Kinsey left New York City this morning for Crystal Springs, Miss., where he will supervise shipping-point inspection work on vegetables.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. ABOUT 5,000 CARS OF POTATOES LEFT IN IDAHO

Below are quoted parts of a letter of April 9 from L. C. Tate, at Idaho Falls:-

"Potatoes have had three advances and three declines in value during the last three weeks, each advance and decline amounting to about an equal scale. This week the slump came early and today the market has been exceptionally draggy and weak. Loadings are probably heavy, due largely to the fact that considerable stock is going out on previous sales. But farmers are very reluctant to consider the acceptance of current values, and it is likely that loadings will drop off sharply next week.

"There are many guesses as to what remains to be shipped from Idaho. Lower Valley holdings are undoubtedly limited, but may still amount to 2,000 cars, the estimate for the entire State being 5,000 to 6,000 carloads. Dealers look for a much slower movement in May than they are having at present, as regards volume of loadings. Current averages of daily shipments run well up toward 200 carloads, but it is thought in most quarters that the State will drop off to 75 or 100 cars daily by May 1.

"Rurals were very active early this week, reaching a top of $1 cash-track on Monday. Prices were fairly well sustained in the face of a sharp decline on Russets Thursday. This is the first time within my knowledge that Rurals have brought better prices than Russets at Idaho loading points."

2b. ONION PROSPECTS IN COACHELLA VALLEY

The following letter on onions in southern California was written by Walter Kingsbury, of the Los Angeles office, on April 10. It is of special interest in connection with the recent report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, which indicates a crop of Bermuda onions in southern California exactly of the same size as that harvested last year, or 570,000 bushels:-

"In a recent trip to the Coachella Valley, I noted that the onion fields appear to be in good condition with apparently fewer seed stems than usual. This, I am told, is due to the fact that the growers planted later this season, in order to avoid this trouble, which is usually quite serious. The season will be later on this account, the first cars probably moving about May 1.

"The Coachella Valley appears to be gradually going out of the picture as an onion-producing section, due to the competition of Texas and to unsatisfactory returns in recent years. It is estimated that probably not more than 500 cars will be shipped this year, as compared with 841 in 1930 and 1,361 cars in 1929.

"Probably 90% of these will consist of Yellow Bermudas and the remainder White Wax. The White Wax onion is rapidly losing its popularity in this district, because of the lighter yields obtained and the greater liability to sun-scald."

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS expects a crop of only 778,000 bushels of potatoes this spring, or just half as many as last season. The Florida potato crop is estimated at 2,930,000 bushels, an increase of 20%.

3b. FARM NEWS FROM COLORADO

Two portionsoof a letter of April 11 from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, are quoted below:-

"Various shippers and dealers in the northern Colorado section have reported an extremely heavy truck movement of potatoes the past winter, on account of open weather and good roads with the exception of the big blizzard late in March. Estimates on the movement of potatoes by this method range from 600 to 1,000 cars. Trucks are reported moving east to Topeka, Kansas; southeast to Kansas and Oklahoma, and south into New Mexico and the panhandle of Texas. There is no doubt that northern Colorado as whole produced 6,000 cars of potatoes, and the carlot shipments will equal or exceed 5,000 cars, besides the truck movement. In ordinary seasons a good portion moves by truck, but the 1930-31 movement has been exceptionally heavy.

"Precipitation up to April 1 was slightly above normal for the season and farmers have had almost an ideal year to prepare their ground for crops."

4b. A NEW MIXED-CAR FREIGHT RATE ON TEXAS VEGETABLES

C. D. Schoolcraft sent the following important report from Brownsville in a letter of April 9:-

"A factor ofconsiderable importance to the lower Rio Grande Valley shippers and one that will likely serve to increase mixed-car shipments of vegetables from this section is the adoption, effective April 7, of a new mixed-car rate on vegetables from the Valley.

"Under this regulation, each lot of vegetables in a mixed car shall carry its own rate, rather than the entire car carrying the rate of the highest commodity, as was the case under the old system. These rates are effective to points east of a line drawn roughly from the northwest corner of Texas through Grand Island, Nebraska, and then north through Minneapolis. This territory now receives the bulk of the mixed-vegetable shipments from the Valley. Shipments to western points are not affected by this ruling. It is believed that this new regulation will open many of the smaller markets to Rio Grande Valley vegetables.

"Under the old rates, in a car carrying a half load of cabbage and a half load of other vegetables, for example, the cabbage carried the vegetable rate, or a rate varying from 16¢ per cwt. to Fort Worth up to 34¢ per cwt. to Boston above the rate on a straight load of cabbage. The difference between the potato and vegetable rate was slightly greater than that between cabbage and vegetables. It is generally felt here that this rate penalty placed on potatoes and cabbage in mixed cars under the old system has retarded the movement of mixed cars into some markets, especially since in many mixed cars one of these commodities makes up the major portion of the load."

5b. TWO SUMMARIES ISSUED

Two additional summaries of field deals have been issued this week:-

"Marketing Strawberries from the Ozark Section of Missouri, 1930 Season," by L. C. Tate.

"Marketing Texas Tomatoes, 1930 Season," by W. D. Googe.

SOUTH CAROLINA expects 30,000 tons of cabbage this spring, or just the same as last year. The Virginia crop is decreased this season.

6b. FIRST CHERRIES ARRIVING FROM CALIFORNIA

E. R. Biddle, of the New York City office, sent the following report in a letter dated April 13:-

"The first cherries of the season arrived and were sold today at auction. The lot consisted of four boxes. One box was of the Burbank variety, 12-row, and sold at $4.87½. Another was of loose pack and named 'China Cherry.' This sold for $1.05. Two boxes of cherries, which were unnamed and packed with quart cartons, sold at $2.50 per box."

7b. POTATOES AND ONIONS DELAYED IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

Interesting news on southern Texas vegetable crops is contained in the following letter of April 12 from C. D. Schoolcraft, at Brownsville:-

"Rains on Friday throughout all the vegetable growing districts of this territory were of distinct benefit to crops but very materially reduced loadings on Friday and Saturday. Loadings of all vegetables last week averaged about 50 cars per day less than for the same week last year. This is largely accounted for by the later potato and onion seasons this year and also by lighter shipments of beans.

"About 120 cars of potatoes were forwarded last week. Prices held steady at the figure set the fore part of the week, but demand was rather slow until Friday. On Friday and Saturday, demand was fairly good and, due to light loadings, some orders could not be filled. Because of the great variation of the size this year, shippers have made three size classifications and are quoting on the basis of these sizes. Potatoes of straight U.S. No. 1 size are selling mostly at $3.50 per cwt., usual terms, and those sizing 1⅝-inch minimum with over 60% U.S. No. 1 size are selling mostly at $3. Stock failing to meet this lower-size classification is hard to sell and is mostly being rolled. Shipments next week will likely be from 200 to 250 cars.

"Onion movement from the Raymondville district continued light. Only 56 cars have been shipped from that district and the Valley to date, compared with 278 last year. Demand has been moderate, with usual-terms prices on Yellow Bermudas ranging $1.10-$1.25 per crate and Wax $1.65-$1.75. Most of the stock is now making Commercial Grade, although some is rather immature as yet. Peak of the movement from the Raymondville district may be expected during the week of the 20th. Shippers here have no confidence in the market holding up, as soon as Laredo and Crystal City start shipping.

"Demand for beans has been very good, but haulings have been light. Only 12 straight cars were shipped during the week. Truckers have been coming in and buying direct from the farmers at prices above what the market warranted shippers to pay. This condition has kept the market in an unsettled condition. Stringless beans are selling at $2.75-$3 per bushel, usual terms.

"The market has been draggy and prices about unchanged on other vegetables. Cabbage shipments are dropping off, but there will likely be a fair volume of cabbage forwarded during the balance of this month."

A BUMPER CROP OF GREEN PEAS is forecast for parts of California outside the Imperial Valley. About 2,486,000 bushels are expected, compared with 1,613,000 last spring. Both acreage and yield per acre are increased. Growers of green peas in five late shipping States are planning a small increase of acreage this year.

8b. WARM WEATHER REPORTED IN MICHIGAN

R. E. Keller sent the following letter of April 11 from the office at Grand Rapids:-

"The first real warm weather made its appearance in Michigan during the past week. The advent of spring is fine for everything but the heavy carry-over of late onions. Dealers and farmers report a lot of sprouting. The demand for onions has been very light, as receivers everywhere are cleaning up on old stock, preparatory to the movement of Texas' new crop; so Michigan shipments have been fairly light. Because of the wide range in quality and the waning season, most of the buyers have left for Texas. Shipments for the State now total 5,243 cars, as against 2,951 a year ago.

"Seed potatoes are now moving freely and amount to about 50% of the total shipments for the week. Movement of table stock also picked up a little. Potato shipments to date are 2,234 cars, compared with 4,842 a year ago."

9b. A LATE FROST HIT SOUTHERN FLORIDA BEANS

What is probably his last letter of the season from Miami, Florida was written by V. H. Nicholson on April 11; it is published below. He expects to move today to Belle Glade, near the Lake:-

"A late frost hit sections of the Lake Okeechobee district both Tuesday and Wednesday nights of this week. According to estimates of growers and shippers, from 1,000 to 1,500 acres of beans were killed, mostly in the Belle Glade area. Most of the beans killed were planted on cold land, quite a distance from the Lake, and had been planted only a few weeks. Damage to tomatoes was slight. The movement of beans from the Lake section is slowly increasing and, according to present indications, the peak is expected during the first week in May.

"The tomato market has been extremely dull, and very few sales have been made. Quality of most shipments is still rather ordinary, and it seems that the Homestead section will ship few good tomatoes this season. Movement from that area will be rather light for the remainder of the season. Tomatoes from the Everglades section may start during the week of April 20, but movement will be light until after May 1."

10b. A NEW PROCESS FOR PRESERVING CITRUS FRUITS

The following information was received in a letter of April 10 from H. F. Willson, at Winter Haven, Florida:-

"An interesting experiment was started at Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida on April 8. Approximately 1,000 boxes of grapefruit, oranges and tangerines were stored in a large steel tank, which was sealed and flooded with an inert gas after the air had been expelled. The success of this non-refrigerating, anti-oxidation process will be determined when the tank is opened in August. Two additional tanks will be filled in the preserving test. This experiment will determine whether there are possibilities of successful preservation of citrus fruits on a commercial scale."

ALABAMA CABBAGE this season may total 11,900 tons, or about 50% more than last spring. Louisiana and Mississippi also expect material increases over last year, with 16,000 tons in Louisiana and 14,600 in Mississippi.

11b. RECENT NEWS ON SOUTHERN FLORIDA CROPS

On April 7, V. H. Nicholson sent the following report on vegetables from Miami, Florida:-

"Rain over most of the southern Florida vegetable sections last week retarded movement of tomatoes but did not affect the bean and pepper shipments to any great extent. The rain on Wednesday was followed by a rather high wind, which whipped the tomato vines in practically all sections. Yields will probably not be cut very much, but the fruit will be scarred, and it will be necessary to grade rather closely.

"The rains, winds, frost and generally unfavorable weather this season have about ruined the early tomato crop. It begins to appear very much as if the spring movement from this section will be only one-third to one-half that of last season. Probably Dade County will ship not more than 600 or 700 cars of tomatoes the remainder of this season. Most of these will move during this month and the first two weeks in May. Assuming that favorable weather prevails during the next six or seven weeks, the tomato movement from the Lake Okeechobee section will amount to about 500 cars. Shipments from the Vero-Fort Pierce section are expected to start around April 20 and the Palmetto section is expected to start about May 1. Total Florida movement will be light until about May 1, or until after these other sections start shipping.

"The bean crop escaped serious damage from the unfavorable weather, although quality of practically all shipments has been only fair to ordinary. Shipments last week averaged over 20 cars daily or the heaviest since the frosts in early December, and about twice as many as a year ago. The bean acreage in the Lake Okeechobee section is about the same as last season, and the crop is now in fair condition. Movement from the Lake section is expected to increase and the heaviest movement will come about the first week in May. Shipments will be about finished by May 10 to 15.

"The pepper crop around Pompano also suffered from the rains and winds. Quality of most shipments has been rather ordinary this week and the price to growers has declined to $3.50-$4. Much of the stock is rather small, and Choice is now being discounted about $1.25 instead of the usual $1. Shipments will probably decrease slightly this week, but increase toward the end of this month. Movement may extend until June, providing the weather and market conditions are favorable."

12b. HALF-CRATES NOW BEING USED FOR SOME TEXAS VEGETABLES

A. B. Farlinger, of the Cleveland office, sent the following report under date of April 9:-

"The half-crate container is becoming very popular on this market and, within the past few weeks, an increasing number of Texas shipments, especially of beets and carrots, have been received in this small crate. It is 24 inches long, 13 inches wide and 9 inches in depth, outside measurements, and is of about one bushel capacity. Local receivers advise that the trade likes this package very much, and often they find it easier to sell a customer two small crates rather than one large western-type lettuce crate. Many of their customers are now calling for this small-type package.

"Beets and carrots are generally packed about three dozen bunches to the crate, compared with about five dozen in the large crate. A couple

of shipments of Texas cabbage were received in this small-type crate but did not prove very popular, as the trade prefers the western lettuce crate for cabbage. Possibly, if cabbage had been selling at high prices, this small container might have met with a greater demand.

"The present trend on the market is for smaller-sized containers, and it appears as if this small crate will prove very popular for certain commodities and become more widely used in the future."

13b. DUPLICATES OF ALL FIELD-STATION MAILING LISTS MUST BE SENT TO WASHINGTON

Attention of all field men is called to Paragraph 597 of the F. & V. Market News Handbook, which states that tape lists of the mailing list at each field office must be forwarded to Washington at the close of each field station, as a necessary precaution in case addressograph plates are lost. This has not been followed by all field men, and, when about two-thirds of the addressograph plates for an important field station were recently lost, we found that we had no duplicate list for replacement. All field men are requested to attend to this regularly hereafter. Several rolls of computing-machine paper are being sent to each man for this purpose, and additional supplies can be ordered as needed.

14b. A REVISED PAGE OF THE HANDBOOK, PARAGRAPHS 592-605

With this D.L., there is being sent to all market news men a revised page of the Handbook, Paragraphs 592-605. The former Paragraph 596 has been omitted, and instead, under the subtitle of "Circularization," there has been added a paragraph to cover instructions issued by letter to all field men some months ago. This paragraph now replaces the former Paragraph 598. If any market news man does not receive this revised page, please advise the Washington office at once.

15b. SUDDEN INCREASE IN LOUISIANA BERRY MOVEMENT

R. L. Sutton sent the following information in a letter of April 14 from Hammond:-

"After having progressed in a rather light way, the movement of Louisiana strawberries took a decided jump at the beginning of this week, with over 100 cars shipped yesterday, April 13. The indications now are that between 400 and 500 cars will be shipped this week. No one anticipated the heavy loadings that occurred yesterday. Up until four o'clock in the afternoon, most of those who are in close touch with the loadings underestimated the final outturn.

"In the cars as offered on the auction last night, there was not much variation, because the quality and condition of the fruit from the entire district was exceptionally good. The berries are now showing a good color. One buyer remarked after the auctions last night that, although he had been coming to Hammond for about 15 years, he had never witnessed an auction which followed a more even trend than the two that had just finished.

"Everything shipped from this district is inspected by experienced shipping-point inspectors under a Federal-State agreement."

16b. VEGETABLE NEWS FROM FLORIDA WEST COAST

Below is published the first letter written by R. M. Peterson from the field station at Bradenton, Florida, on April 13:-

"The spring crop of Manatee-Sarasota celery is showing a high percentage of seed stalks, and cutting is getting under way as rapidly as possible. From 125 to 150 cars are expected this week, with approximately the same movement next week. Shipments thereafter will be considerably lighter and the season will end earlier than usual. Shippers are not inclined to accept the low offers being made today, and are rolling most of the cars unsold, expecting to put some cars in storage and to hold the others off the markets as long as possible.

"Cucumbers from the Wauchula section are progressing very slowly, and, according to present indications, no carlots will be shipped before the last week of April. A few crates were picked today, and by Saturday there should be from 50 to 75 crates harvested from the trough-protected fields. Of the 800 to 1,000 acres estimated for this section, only 50 to 75 acres were protected; so it is not likely that there will be any heavy movement until well into June. The Bushnell-Centerhill district is expected to load one car of cucumbers today but will not have more than an occasional car for a week or 10 days, after which the loadings should increase quite rapidly."

17b. WESTERN NEW YORK MARKET DULL

A. L. Thomas sent the following information in a letter of April 14 from Rochester:-

"The movement of apples dropped off considerably during the past two weeks and is now averaging around 20 cars daily. There has been very little trading, as most dealers are holding for higher prices. F.o.b. sales this week were confined mostly to Baldwins, although there were a few mixed cars of Starks sold. The export demand has been very light, and some of the stock now packed in barrels for this trade is being repacked into bushels for the domestic trade. The movement this season has filled 14,915 cars, compared with 8,401 last season to this date.

"The demand for potatoes slowed up this week and f.o.b. prices declined about 5 cents. Most dealers feel that the market is showing a temporary weakness, but they expect a reaction shortly. Haulings from growers to country dealers have been retarded greatly, due to the prevailing price of 80¢-85¢ per bushel. Most of the growers are holding for $1 per bushel.

"There has been practically no demand or trading in carrots. Holdings in both growers' and dealers' hands are heavy, and it now appears that many carrots will be dumped."

18b. UNLOAD TOTALS OF SEASONAL PRODUCTS

In the first table of each monthly unload report, please do not specifically list any commodity for which no unloads are of record for the current month or the same month during the two preceding years. For example,- such products as asparagus, strawberries, grapes, etc., should be listed only during the months when there are receipts. However, in order that the tabulations showing total unloads since January 1 may be complete, such commodities should be grouped in the final item of the table as "Others" and the combined total for "Others" given. Each office should also maintain a record of the totals-to-date of each commodity, so that for those which reappear later in the year the individual totals since January 1 will be available.

19b. LAREDO ONION SEASON OPENING SLOWLY

The first letter of the season regarding onions in the Laredo district of Texas came from W. D. Googe under date of April 11:-

"The Laredo onion deal has been delayed by cool weather, only 14 cars having been shipped to date, as against 90 to the same date last year. Friday was featured by a cool rain which lasted all day, and only one car was forwarded. The early shipments have been of the usual ordinary quality and have been quoted as Commercial Grade. However, most of them have not been certified by the inspection service and the grade of the stock has been uncertain.

"Quotations have been going out at mostly $1.25 for Yellow Bermudas and $1.75 for Crystal Wax, f.o.b. usual terms, for commercial stock in either standard crates or 50-pound sacks. Shippers report that offers range from 25¢ to 40¢ lower than these prices, and as a result practically all cars have been rolled for delivered sales.

"Quality of this season's crop is reported to be spotted. As a whole, the yield will be lighter than last year. With a 20% increase in acreage, it is doubtful whether the carlot shipments will equal those of 1930, unless growing conditions and market conditions show considerable improvement."

20b. OPTIMISM SHOWN IN SALINAS-WATSONVILLE LETTUCE SEASON

L. H. Howard, of the California Department of Agriculture, wrote in part as follows in a letter of April 10 from Salinas:-

"With the f.o.b. cash-track market strong today at $2.50 and an occasional car of outstanding merchandise as high as $2.75, the Salinas-Watsonville spring lettuce deal is off to a beginning as auspicious as even the most optimistic could have hoped for. The situation is quite contrary to that of last year, when local shippers were at this time holding back on ready acreage for the wind-up of the Phoenix season.

"At present there is a wide range in quality. Early surveys brought hopeful reports for unusually good spring lettuce, and generally good stands presaged favorable yields. Mother Nature, however, stepped in to take a hand and partially obliterate these hopes. Anticipated rains did not materialize and this brought about almost complete loss to some 2,000 acres of dry-farm lettuce; a few 6-dozen sizes may be salvaged. Expected rain also caused some growers to defer irrigating; their fields, watered too late, show effects of this delay. Then unusually hot weather, particularly during the fore part of this week when temperatures ran to 90°, has taken a severe toll in the fields. Some tip-burn is already apparent and solidity is lacking, with most present cuttings running firm to fairly firm, some hard. Wireworm infestation is noticeable in some of the younger plantings, and blight is affecting many fields. Sizes are running heavily to 5's, with an abundance of 6's; the 4 dozen's are held at a premium. Some loadings have graded U.S. No. 1, with several 85% cars, but shippers, in most cases, have gained these certificates at the expense of heavy culling. Yields to date have been very light; and are expected to run light for the spring deal."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas H. S. Duncan	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
			Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions*	Sept. 3	Apr. 11*
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage*	Sept. 3	Mar. 28*
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	June 6
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions	Oct. 24	Apr. 15
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach*	Jan. 5	Mar. 7*
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 20	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 30	May 15
			Onions	Apr. 6	Apr. 30
			Tomatoes	Apr. 27	May 29
HAMMOND, LA., P.O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 15
LAREDO, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	801	W. D. Googe	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23
HASTINGS, FLA.**	851	B. E. Surry	Potatoes	Apr. 8	May 20
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS**	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 14	May 23
BRADENTON, FLA.**	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 15	May 29
BELLE GLADE, FLA.**	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Apr. 20	May 16
			Peppers	Apr. 20	May 16
			Tomatoes	Apr. 20	May 16
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
CHADBOURN, N.C.**	805	A. M. McDowell	Stbr.	May 1	May 16
BRAWLEY, CALIF.**	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	Apr. 27	July 11
The following stations closed on dates indicated:					
MIAMI, FLA.,** Realty Bldg.	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Nov. 17	Apr. 16
			Peppers	Dec. 19	Apr. 16
			Tomatoes	Jan. 16	Apr. 16
SANFORD, FLA.,** City Hall Bldg.	910	J. B. Owens	Celery	Jan. 26	Apr. 18
PHOENIX, ARIZ.,** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Mar. 18	Apr. 13

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox at San Francisco
J. B. Owens at Sanford, Fla.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. GRAPEFRUIT INSPECTION WORK IN PORTO RICO MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

Below is published the first letter to be received from A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector in Porto Rico. It was dated April 11 at San Juan:-

"I had intended writing you before, but have been exceedingly busy, out in the country from early in the morning until late at night, attending meetings of the growers or doing individual additional work in various packing houses. The packers here are very enthusiastic about the work and are cooperating to the fullest extent. Every packing house seems to have a different standard for packing its fruit, and it will be a long time before they all become unified. But they are all trying hard and, once they get the idea, are sticking very closely to the grade. We have had only two certificates so far, covering total shipments of about 1,600 boxes of grapefruit, but this week we probably will inspect about 5,000 boxes.

"No certificate has been issued, until I have had time to spend at the packing houses, showing them what to pack under the different grades. I feel certain that we have about six packing houses now meeting the quality requirements of the U.S. grades. Monday we will start with two additional houses, and I believe that by the middle of the week they also will be packing up to the U.S. standards.

"The two licensed inspectors, who will assist with this work, expect to be down here not later than April 20. Our shipments to New York and direct to European markets will be around 25,000 boxes then a week, and we shall inspect a large portion of the shipments. After the two inspectors arrive, we shall inspect all shipments for packers who have signed for inspection. Between now and the first of September we hope to inspect about 450,000 boxes of oranges and grapefruit, mostly grapefruit. In addition, there will be between 250,000 and 300,000 boxes to inspect during the months of September, October and November. Florida by that time generally cuts Porto Rican sales to a minimum on account of the heavy production in Florida.

"The quality of the fruit here is excellent. A check upon fruit now being packed to U.S. grades shows that from 75% to 85% of the stock meets the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade. Less than 5% has to be culled, the remainder meeting the requirements of U.S. No. 1 Russet or U.S. No. 2. There is very little rust mite or Melanose injury; therefore a very small percentage of the fruit is being packed as Russet. In some parts of the Island, there are considerable scars caused by wind, and a large percentage of stock from these districts going in the lower grades is on this account."

2c. FEBRUARY INSPECTIONS IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the "Inspection Letter" issued at Yakima on April 7 appears the following report of shipping-point inspections in Washington during the month of February. The total was 3,120½:

Apples	2,588	Pears	106½
Mixed fruit	4	Potatoes	379
Onions	27	Rhubarb	16

Total inspections at Washington shipping points from July 1, 1930, to the end of February were 40,622½ carloads.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING MARCH, 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for Lack of Time	Total Fees
Atlanta	39	46	1	0	$ 168.50
Baltimore	52	42	6	0	193.50
Boston	246	223	89	9	849.63
Buffalo	37	11	1	0	153.80
Chicago	346	203	7	0	1,484.86
Cincinnati	57	58	0	0	273.37
Cleveland	26	24	2	0	142.30
Columbus	26	22	0	0	110.47
Denver	34	18	0	0	137.00
Detroit	78	88	0	0	313.00
Fort Worth	19	18	1	1	75.50
Harrisburg	4	0	2	2	20.00
Houston	19	25	0	0	76.90
Indianapolis	16	17	0	1	77.53
Jacksonville	91	49	1	0	364.50
Kansas City	69	58	19	1	320.57
Los Angeles	15	12	2	0	57.00
Memphis	29	26	20	0	125.00
Milwaukee	59	44	2	0	227.50
Minneapolis	48	8	0	3	203.97
Newark	63	59	9	3	250.00
New Haven	44	51	3	0	207.74
New Orleans	100	113	18	0	189.50
New York	964	659	317	0	3,495.96
Norfolk	22	14	3	0	86.50
Omaha	73	19	12	0	284.35
Philadelphia	176	264	1	0	576.00
Pittsburgh	83	171	13	0	333.16
Portland	17	13	3	0	90.00
Providence	27	49	2	0	107.00
Rochester	12	4	0	0	46.00
St. Louis	92	88	13	0	388.48
Salt Lake City	1	2	0	0	2.50
San Francisco	11	5	1	0	48.20
Seattle	2	5	0	0	9.00
Springfield	17	48	2	0	92.08
Toledo	23	4	0	0	92.43
Trenton	1	9	0	0	4.00
Tulsa	1	-	0	0	11.00
Washington	85	134	4	0	402.23
Wilkes-Barre	10	12	0	0	36.50
TOTAL	3,134	2,715	554	20	$12,127.53

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:- Total 1,716: 232 for Pennsylvania, 12 B.&O., 1,320 Nickel Plate, 48 Kroger's, 16 Federal Cold Storage.

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING MARCH, 1931

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

SYMBOLS N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS	Fruits and vegetables PASSED	Fruits and vegetables REJECTED	TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED	"Cuts" made to comply with specifications	Items Billed Short-Weight
STATIONS	N M	N M	N M	N M	N M
GREAT LAKES	172256 0	1040 0	173296 0	0 0	0 0
NEW YORK	150299 83965	10833 3160	161132 87125	0 0	0 0
NORFOLK	855597 0	0 0	855597 0	0 0	0 0
PHILADELPHIA	332943 22305	12651 225	345594 22530	236 7	0 0
SAN DIEGO	290421 51934	10616 1317	301037 53251	1026 27	0 0
SAN FRANCISCO	80460 56000	1500 2000	81960 58000	0 0	0 0
SAN PEDRO	46924 0	500 0	47424 0	0 0	0 0
VALLEJO	164344 26496	13250 90	177594 26586	0 0	0 0
WASHINGTON	480 0	0 0	480 0	0 0	0 0
TOTAL	2093724 240700	50390 6792	2144114 247492	1262 34	0 0

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD

NEW YORK	6874	0	6874	0	0

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL

CHICAGO	61801	2180	63981	0	0
MILWAUKEE	15489	1415	16904	0	0
NEW YORK	161321	11234	172555	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	44591	3415	48006	0	0
TOTALS	283202	18244	301446	0	0

The New York office also inspected the following:	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	81340	260775	9795
Munson S.S. Line	10729	45506	0
Dollar Line	8774	25965	83
American-France Line	4432	26195	274
American-Diamond Line	4613	24907	595
American-India Line	190	1040	0
American-Brazil Line	981	6628	75
Total	111259	391017	10822
The Philadelphia office also inspected for			
U.S. Republic Line	40318	9	40327
Total	151577	391026	51149

The San Pedro office also inspected the following for the Navy: 847 lbs. bread; 256 lbs. butter; 20 lbs. cheese; The Vallejo office inspected 26,762 lbs. bread and 213 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

3c. MARCH INSPECTION IN CALIFORNIA

About 2,653 inspections were made at shipping points in California during the month of March, according to a report in California "Inspectors' Notes" for April 3. Leading districts were as follows: El Centro-Brawley 1,050; Santa Maria 654; Los Angeles 240; San Jose-Hayward 242; San Diego 173; San Francisco 102, including 47 shipside inspections.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Both Mr. Sherman and Mr. Butner are on the program of the Atlantic States Division of the National Association of Marketing Officials, which meets in the Conference Room of the Bieber Building in Washington next Tuesday, April 21. Mr. Sherman will speak on the subject: "Progress Made under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and Supplementary State Legislation Having a Bearing on this Act." Mr. Butner will discuss the subject: "Operation Problems of State-Federal Shipping-Point Inspection." A number of State men, holding cooperative positions with our Bureau, are expected to attend this annual meeting.

On his way back from Minnesota, Mr. Sherman will stop at Cleveland this Saturday to confer with officials of the Northern Ohio Food Terminal and representatives of the F. & V. Division. He will be in Washington by Sunday.

Wm. E. Lewis left Washington on Wednesday evening for Columbus, Ohio, where he is conferring for a few days with M. W. Baker, of the Columbus inspection office, and with representatives of several canning companies concerning the proposed grades for cannery cherries.

Simon Lieberman, who has been on the Chicago inspection staff for some time, is being transferred this week to the New York City staff. He will handle the night inspection work for the railway express agency, which W. J. Kocken has been handling for the past year or more.

J. B. Owens plans to close the Sanford field station of the Market News Service this Saturday, as the bulk of the Florida celery crop has been moved. Mr. Owens will remain at Sanford for a while, preparing his summary of the season.

A. E. Prugh issued his last report on Arizona lettuce at Phoenix on Monday and proceeded to Brawley, Calif., about the middle of the week. He probably will begin issuing market reports on cantaloupes about April 27.

G. W. Christenson, of the Chicago inspection staff, is at Duluth, Minn., the last three days of this week, inspecting a large block of apples in cold storage at that point.

J. E. Dickerson has advised us that the onion inspection work in Michigan and Indiana will be completed by the end of this week.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 17 April 24, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. INTERESTING REPORT ON GRAPEFRUIT INSPECTIONS IN PORTO RICO

A. S. Mason, who recently went to Porto Rico, to supervise the shipping-point inspection work on grapefruit and oranges, sent the following report from San Juan in a letter of April 15:-

"The work here continues to be in the educational stage; we are issuing very few certificates. Starting next week, however, the issue of certificates will be rather general. Between the 20th and 30th of April, we expect to inspect more than 25,000 boxes.

"On April 25 there will be a direct shipment from San Juan to London of 11,000 boxes, of which we probably shall inspect about 7,500 boxes. Space has been contracted for direct shipments to Europe as follows:

April 25 -	11,000 boxes	May 20 -	20,000 boxes
May 5 -	20,000 "	May 25 -	25,000 "

These shipments will be in addition to those going to New York, which should be as large if not larger.

"Until the American market materially improves, most of this crop would be exported. The Porto Rican grapefruit is selling for very good prices in the British Empire, Germany and France. Cable received today shows that the best fruit is netting back f.o.b. San Juan as high as $3.35 per box, second-grade fruit netting as much as $2.30, with a general average of all first-grade fruit around $2.85 and all second-grade fruit around $2.30

"The longer I am in Porto Rico, the better I like it, and I am not at all sorry that I came. The growers here are giving us wonderful cooperation and I am sure that, within a short time, most of them will be packing strictly U.S. No. 1 or U.S. No. 2 fruit. Every suggestion regarding grading and packing is immediately accepted and passed on to their neighbors. Since last Friday noon, we have had about 50,000 boxes added to our amount to be inspected."

2a. FEATURES IN "FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS"

"Foreign Crops and Markets" is a weekly mimeographed publication of the Foreign Agricultural Service division of our Bureau. The issue dated April 13 contains an excellent special article, illustrated with charts, on the World Dry-Bean Situation. The issues dated April 20 and 27, include extensive special articles and statistical tables on the World Citrus-Fruit Situation, Parts I and II. Copies of these publications can be had by those who need them directly from the Foreign Service division in our Bureau.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. TEXAS BERMUDA ONIONS GET A LATE START

Under date of April 15, R. G. Risser wrote as follows in a letter from the field station at Crystal City, Texas:-

"The outstanding feature of the Bermuda onion season in the upper counties of southern Texas so far this year has been the lateness of the crop in reaching maturity and the consequent lateness of movement to market. Weather conditions have retarded the development and more particularly the ripening of the bulbs. Cool, cloudy weather, with showers, has kept the onions green beyond the usual time for harvesting.

"The situation is clearly shown in the figures indicating shipments for this season and the corresponding period for the two seasons preceding. Carlot shipments for Texas up to April 14 this year are less than 100 cars. In 1930 over 600 cars had been shipped and in 1929 over 1,200 cars had moved. This has happened in spite of the large crop forecast for 1931.

"Under the circumstances, shippers do not express much optimism as to the outcome of the deal. The late beginning is expected to make a short shipping period, which means heavy supplies maturing within a limited time. If there is not a large daily movement and a high peak of shipments, it will probably be due to unsatisfactory marketing conditions, inferior size and quality, or in failure of the crop to produce according to estimates. Any one of these things is considered within the realm of possibility and, in fact, it seems probable that a combination of all three factors may restrict the movement materially. There are reports that the continued unseasonable growing weather has resulted in more than the normal quantity of splits and other effects of second-growth, and it is known that the Texas crop is quite spotted, some sections having been seriously injured by thrips."

2b. MICHIGAN ONION SEASON FINISHED

The following letter of April 18 came from R. E. Keller, in charge of the Grand Rapids office:-

"The Michigan onion deal is rapidly drawing to a close. While there is a lot of stock yet to be shipped, it is fast deteriorating. Warm weather has caused the onions to start sprouting or to develop a sprout-tip far enough along to sprout in transit. The clean-up of the late onion deal has been a big disappointment, as many carloads of stock will have to be dumped. Many of the dealers speculated with some of the best stock for sale on the clean-up of the deal, and they now have a lot of onions which they can't sell. A recent count of onions in storage indicates about 150 cars still on hand. A few cars of U.S. No. 1 yellows were sold during the past week, but most stock was rolled for delivered sales or consigned.

"The last two weeks have witnessed the heaviest carlot movement of potatoes out of Michigan for the entire year, with 195 cars being shipped two weeks ago and 184 cars the past week. The movement of table stock has increased a little; however, the principal gains can be attributed to forwardings of seed stock, as fully 75% of the past week's movement was destined for seed purposes."

3b. RECENT NEWS ON RIO GRANDE VALLEY CROPS

C. D. Schoolcraft sent the following letter from Brownsville, Texas, on April 19:-

"With the exception of a slight reduction in bean prices, markets in the lower Valley have remained about unchanged during the past week. About 100 cars of beans left the Valley last week in straight cars and probably a third that number in mixed cars. Demand has been good all week, on some days exceeding the supply. Quality in general is good, with a majority of the shipments making U.S. No. 1 grade. Movement of beans is likely to continue at about the present level during next week.

"The potato market has held about steady. Wet fields the fore part of the week held down loadings, but shipments were around 50 cars a day for the last three days of the week. Demand has been moderate to good, especially for straight U.S. No. 1 stock. Not more than one-third of the stock is making grade on size, the rest being shipped out as 1½-inch minimum.

"Onion shipments during the last three days have held around the 50-car mark for the Raymondville section. Peak movement from that section is expected to come the fore part of this week. Demand has been fairly good, but, with Laredo coming actively into the deal, the demand has fallen off somewhat the past couple of days. After this week, a greater proportion of the stock will be used in mixed cars. Quality in this section has not been the best this year. There have been no U.S. No. 1 onions as yet, and not more than half of the shipments have been making U.S. Commercial grade.

"A few small lots of tomatoes have been shipped the past week. The first straight car will likely be shipped Tuesday or Wednesday. Tomato movement from the Valley is expected to be fairly active by the end of the month. In those fields not hit by the early March frosts, the set is considered fairly good. In the upper end of the Valley, many of the plants were killed and fields were reset, and in that section shipments probably will not get under way until the middle of May.

"Cabbage movement is likely to fall off rather sharply during the next week, with the movement practically ended by May 1. Quality of much of the stock is deteriorating and, while there is still considerable good cabbage left in the Valley, shippers have simply lost interest in the cabbage market. In the Corpus Christi section, all but one of the major shippers have finished for the season. Quality is fast deteriorating there, and many fields are being disked under and prepared for other farm crops."

4b. LOS ANGELES TO SEATTLE MOTOR-TRUCK ROUTE

J. D. Hamilton, of the Portland office, has submitted the following report in a letter of April 16:-

"More about the long-distance motor-truck idea:- Three or four trucks have been making the 1,300-mile Los Angeles-to-Portland run at intervals during recent months, but, to the best of my knowledge, only one truck has continued on to Seattle. The idea is considered quite practicable under certain conditions. Single units are used - no trailers, as these cut down the speed too greatly, in the mountainous parts of the trip especially. Five-ton trucks are used mostly. A 3,000-mile round trip once a week with each truck can readily be maintained. The idea is most practicable if confined to high-value, perishable commodities, in which elapsed time between harvesting and delivery to the jobber is of utmost importance. In this Los Angeles-

Portland-Seattle run, several hours are saved over the Railway Express time. Dry ice is the accepted refrigerant. Some stock, however, showed imperfect refrigeration, with considerable decay, but this can probably be corrected.

"Portland distributors, especially two farmers' cooperative associations, operate regular wholesale routes, radiating 200 to 250 miles from Portland. Other truck lines are now in contemplation, involving precise routing and timing. In these the trucks are in motion practically every moment of the 24 hours of the day, except while loading and unloading at the central depots. Only one driver on the truck at a time, but drivers are changed at established junction points, involving an 8 to 12 hours' run for each driver. These trucks, actually covering 3,000 miles per week, are used for 30 weeks; then exchanged for new ones. After rebuilding the motor, or possibly installing a new motor, and making such other replacements as are necessary (including setting back the speedometers), these trucks are resold for 50%-60% of the original value, for city or short-distance delivery, wherein only 50 to 100 miles per day are required. This idea is now being applied in general long-distance trucking, between coast cities and between the Coast and the interior. Fresh fruits and vegetables comprise a part of the cargoes of these trucks, although there is no straight fruit and vegetable truck-service yet. The habit of these long-distance trucks, of unloading around midnight, may add further complication to the matter of tabulating truck receipts accurately."

5b. MAINE POTATO PRICES DECLINE SHARPLY

In a letter of April 20 from Presque Isle, W. D. Hull tells of the recent unexpected changes in the Aroostook County market:-

"Unusually slow demand and the unwillingness on the part of city dealers to buy ahead caused the Maine potato situation to become very draggy and weak. F.o.b. prices of sacked Green Mountains declined to $1.35 per cwt., the lowest price since the market made its sudden advance the last week in March. Street prices showed a similar decline. Haulings from the farmers were rather light in spite of the weaker tendency of the market, most of the transactions being confined to the purchase of bins of potatoes from growers who had stored in shippers' warehouses last fall.

"Shippers who are inclined to face the facts as they are, and not as they wish they were, believe that there is little hope for development of a strong market for Maine potatoes during the balance of the shipping season, unless there is an unlooked-for shortage of old-crop potatoes. Warmer weather of the past week was not conducive to the development of a better market nor to the holding of potatoes in storage.

6b. SEVERE WINDSTORM IN UTAH

L. S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, sent the following wire on April 23:-

"A 60 to 70-mile gale swept Davis and Weber counties, the principal truck sections of Utah. Onions and peas were well up and, in many fields, the plants were literally blown out of the ground or cut off. Tomato planting had just begun and the damaged acreage will be re-set. Unable yet to determine damage to fruit."

7b. RELATIVELY LOW PRICES FOR TEXAS ONIONS

W. D. Googe wrote as follows from Laredo, Texas, in a letter of April 19:-

"After being delayed by showers the early part of last week, the Laredo onion movement finally got under way on Wednesday. The season is considered 10 days to two weeks late, but at that it has opened almost as soon as the Raymondville season, which was likewise delayed by rainy weather. Fairly-cool and partly-cloudy weather continues to hold back maturity.

"Only a few cars to date have graded U.S. No. 1, but the majority of shipments from this section have averaged 80% or more U.S. No. 1 size. Opening prices were mostly $1.25 per standard crate of Yellow Bermudas, with Crystal Wax at $1.75. After the first few cars were shipped, prices declined about 15¢ but have held fairly steady to firm since that time. An interesting feature thus far is the volume moving in 50-pound open-mesh sacks, it being estimated that more than 80% of the movement has been loaded in these bags. They are generally quoted about 10¢ lower than crates. The opening prices given above are said to be the lowest in the history of the deal, but, with the very low prices prevailing for old onions, it was thought advisable to start the prices at this level in order to insure immediate consumption of new stock. Each day's loadings have been practically cleaned up at night, and shippers seem rather agreeably surprised that such has been the case.

"Operators are more cheerful about the outlook than they were two weeks ago. The late start here permitted the supplies of old onions to be reduced, and it is believed that the demand for new stock will be fairly good during the month of May. During the early days of April, many fields were seriously damaged by thrips, particularly north of Laredo and in sections of the Winter Garden district. It is generally estimated that Texas onion shipments this year will be around 5,000 cars. This estimate may be raised considerably, if the increased acreage around Corpus Christi comes through in good shape, but most Laredo operators are skeptical of that section being able to produce any volume of onions."

8b. WESTERN NEW YORK MARKET TENDING DOWNWARD

A. L. Thomas sent the following report from Rochester under date of April 21:-

"Demand for apples has been very light during the past week. Trading has been confined mostly to Baldwins in bushel packages. Shippers have been inclined to hold for higher prices but, with the spring-like weather we are having, they are beginning to sell more freely at the prevailing prices.

"Movement of potatoes has held up fairly well, considering the terminal market prices. Some seed stock is moving to points in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas. F.o.b. sales declined about 15¢ during the week, and from all indications prices will go still lower. Prices to growers have also declined about 15¢.

"The demand for carrots has been very slow, and dealers are consigning most of their stock to any market that will take a car, regardless of the prospects of getting more than freight charges. One dealer yesterday told me that he has sold 15,000 bushels to farmers, to be fed to livestock, and that he has several thousand more bushels which he hopes to move in the same way. This stock is being sold to farmers at 15¢ per bushel."

9b. LOUISIANA BERRY SALES HAVE EXCEEDED $2,000,000 IN VALUE

The following interesting letter of April 21 was received from R. L. Sutton, at Hammond:-

"The shipment of 141 cars of strawberries from Louisiana on Saturday, April 18, exceeded all previous records, and the output on Monday, April 20 again set a new high of 190 carloads. This will probably be the peak movement of the season, but the district would welcome a good rain, and it maybe that, with changed weather conditions, the shipments next week will again reach the high levels already established.

"Of the 190 cars from the State on Monday, 164 were sold by two auction companies that night; and they were all sold, not a single car being passed. The demand was unusually good, in the face of such heavy supplies. The sales averaged $1.95 per 24-pint crate of Klondikes. This one day's business through the auctions alone had an f.o.b. value in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. The total value of sales through the auction companies so far this season has approximated $2,100,000.

"The quality and condition of the fruit has been above average. Distribution of the crop is becoming widespread. The destination tables, as carried on our reports, show during the past few days from 100 to 110 cities receiving Louisiana strawberries. Chicago takes more than any other single market. New York, Detroit, Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and St. Louis also serve as important outlets.

"Everyone connected with this deal works late hours. Last night, I filed my f.o.b. wire and other telegrams at 12.15 A.M. There has to be a well-perfected organization to move such quantities of berries and to prepare accurate catalogues, showing all cars listed for auction-sale with car numbers count, brands, etc., within such a limited time. Practically all cars are billed originally to Mattoon, Ill. Diversion orders are filed quickly after the auctions and throughout the following day. All shipments move in express cars. A smaller minimum weight was recently allowed for certain 'short cars,' which lowers the minimum from 17,000 to 15,000 pounds. This is of considerable advantage to buyers who take cars loaded 684 crates and less to the car. This season to date, Louisiana has shipped 1,180 cars, or about 300 more than to the same time last year. Alabama's berry crop is now moving, and it is expected that the height of the movement from that State will be reached during the first part of May. It is a safe assertion to make that during the next week terminal market prices for Louisiana berries will be at rather low levels."

10b. 1931 EARLY VEGETABLE SEASON OPENS IN WASHINGTON

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, sent the following letter under date of April 17:-

"Yakima Valley potato prices have declined further at shipping points. The absence of demand from middle-western markets and a lighter demand from California buyers is held responsible for the unfavorable development, according to shippers. The closing market this week for Washington combination-grade stocks, f.o.b. cash-track, ranged $14-$16, sacked per ton. The market for U.S. No. 2 declined to a range of $8-$10 per ton.

"The 1931 shipping season for Washington early vegetables was inaugurated April 14 with the movement of two straight cars of asparagus from Kennewick. Both cars were billed to eastern Canada markets. Due to the active

demand from eastern markets, the stock of best quality is being used for these shipments, while Seattle and other nearby markets are absorbing the unclassified packs. Shippers are of the opinion that the production of asparagus in the lower Yakima Valley will show an increase of 15% over any previous year, although the movement will not all be directly to market. Canneries have contracted to use a large portion of the production and are featuring the green canned product.

"In the Puget Sound section, weather conditions have been extremely favorable for the growth of green peas. Other vegetables have not been so favorably served, and gardeners are anxious for more bright clear weather, so they can attend to necessary work. Some Iceberg lettuce yet remains to be moved to the fields, and there is a possibility that some replanting will be needed on the low lands. A limited quantity of local cauliflower has been cut, but supplies have not been adequate for the local requirements."

11b. A GOOD CROP OF FLORIDA POTATOES

B. E. Surry, in charge of the field station at Hastings, Florida, sent the following letter under date of April 20:-

"Light shipments, caused by two days of rainy weather, and lower f.o.b. prices which greatly stimulated the demand for new potatoes, featured the past week's events at Hastings. During Monday and Tuesday, the f.o.b. market declined $1 on No. 1's and 50¢ on No. 2's, with prices holding respectively at $5.50 and $3.50 for the balance of the week. By mutual consent, operators agreed to lower prices in an attempt to create a better demand and to place northern markets in better position to receive the heavy shipments soon to move. Rainfall of 1.3 inches on Wednesday and Thursday stopped digging completely for these two days, however, and haulings continued very light. With favorable weather the latter part of the week, shipments began to increase. Demand exceeded the available supply, especially of No. 1 stock, and wire inquiry was good. It is not expected that prices will be raised until after the peak movement has been reached, or around May 1.

"Although last week's shipments of 260 cars were the heaviest this year, loadings were more than 300 cars below expectations, due to the rainy weather. Total shipments for Florida since January 1 amount to 1,090 cars, compared with 1,845 cars last year. With favorable weather this week, 750 cars or more are due to be shipped, with more than half of this total loaded at Hastings. Average daily shipments for the State during the past two weeks have been only about 38 cars.

"It has been estimated that Hastings section proper, comprising 18,000 acres, will ship 4,100 cars before June 1. The La Crosse section, which will commence loading in about a week, has planted 2,800 acres and will move around 650 cars before May 15. South Florida is credited with probably 800 cars, and western Florida 225 cars, bringing the total for the State to June 1 to approximately 5,700 cars; this number would be 1,000 cars more than were moved out of the State by that date last year.

" A good yield for the Hastings section has been reported to date. The forecast for the season was 39 barrels to the acre and, thus far, growers report an average yield of around 40 barrels. Stock is running 70%-80% U.S. No. 1 size and is generally clean and bright, except for some shipments since recent rains. Blight has shown up in a few fields, but no serious damage has been reported."

12b. RECORD OF SERVICES DURING MARCH

All market stations will be interested in studying the following tabulation:-

RECORD OF SERVICES OVER LEASED WIRE DURING MARCH, 1931

Name of Market Serviced	Total Number of Services to Markets	Errors by Markets	Telegraphic Errors	Insufficient Information by Markets	Unclassified Services to Markets	Unnecessary services by Wash.	Unanswered Services	Voluntary Corrections **
Atlanta	13	6	2	3	1	1	-	6
Baltimore	9	2	1	1	4	1	-	7
Boston	27	17	-	8	2	-	-	2
Chicago	12	5	2	1	2	1	1	10
Cincinnati	7	1	3	2	1	-	-	-
Cleveland	12	6	2	2	1	1	-	1
Detroit	20	13	1	1	4	1	-	5
Fort Worth*	17	7	4	2	2	-	2	6
Kansas City	21	13	4	2	1	1	-	5
Minneapolis	20	12	2	6	-	-	-	1
New York	58	25	7	15	11	-	-	27
New Orleans	8	5	1	2	-	-	-	-
Philadelphia	36	18	2	10	5	1	-	23
Pittsburgh	22	10	7	2	2	1	-	5
St. Louis	17	2	1	5	7	2	-	3
Washington	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	21
Total March	300	142	40	62	43	10	3	122
Total February	211	100	28	34	38	9	2	91

* Including Dallas

** Not included in the Total

13b. SEND WASHINGTON THREE COPIES OF EACH REPORT

Effective at once all offices, both field and market stations, are requested to send to Washington with Forms MS-31 or MS-32, three copies of each report issued, instead of two copies as in the past. Requests are frequently received here for the individual reports issued at various stations, and we wish to maintain an extra set, in addition to our regular file copies.

14b. NOTE ALL REVISIONS IN UNLOAD REPORTS

All market stations should carefully correct their unload tabulations in accordance with any revisions or changes which are made by the Washington office, or which are finally agreed upon after correspondence with Washington. Some offices have apparently not always done this, with resulting differences in the totals carried in reports of subsequent months, and also discrepancies between the annual unload reports which are issued by the market stations and those prepared at Washington.

SEE NEW ADDRESS for Denver office at bottom of Page 269 in this D.L. →

15b. IMPERIAL VALLEY CANTALOUPES STARTING TO MOVE

In view of the fact that Imperial Valley, California, annually ships about half the total carlot movement of cantaloupes in the United States, the following telegraphic report from A. E. Prugh is of interest. It was sent from Brawley on April 23:-

"FIRST CAR cantaloupes shipped to Chicago Saturday (April 18); second car yesterday to New York, from very early 40-acre field. Sizes small. Turned cool and windy yesterday but warmer today. Shipping season expected to be about same as last year except this one early field. Very little mildew showing up. Good May quality expected."

16b. CROP NEWS FROM BELLE GLADE SECTION OF FLORIDA

In a letter of April 21, from Belle Glade, the following crop notes were submitted by V. H. Nicholson:-

"While I have not had very much opportunity to see the condition of the crops around here, first impressions are that the bean crop will not be as heavy as at first indicated. Continued rains followed by winds have injured the quality of a large percentage of the crop, and very few beans of good quality are being shipped from this section. Tomato vines look fairly good, but I am afraid that too much rain has fallen for the crop to be of more than ordinary quality. Very few tomatoes will move before May 1."

17b. ARIZONA REPORTS MANY NEW CITRUS PLANTINGS

New citrus plantings this spring in Arizona have amounted to around 4,000 acres, according to the Arizona Industrial Congress. The new plantings bring total citrus acreage to about 17,000 acres in Maricopa County and 1,200 acres in Yuma County, with something over 5,000 acres in bearing. The industry is growing so rapidly that many authorities predict the State will have 40,000 to 50,000 acres planted to citrus fruits by the year 1940, thereby giving the citrus crop first rank in value of Arizona farm production. Grapefruit predominates in Arizona citrus plantings.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

OFFICE NOTES(Continued from Page 274)

H. T. Longino, in charge of Texas shipping-point inspections, has advised us that he is spending this week at Crystal City, supervising the work in that section, but he will return to the lower Rio Grande Valley to look after the heavy inspection work on tomatoes. His headquarters remain at Harlingen, Texas, although his time will be divided between the Valley and the Winter Garden district of southern Texas.

G. W. Winfrey, of the New Orleans inspection office, who has been assisting with strawberry inspections at shipping points in Louisiana, will now proceed to Van Buren, Ark., where he will supervise the shipping-point work on strawberries and vegetables for the next two months. J. W. Coleman will be temporarily in charge at New Orleans office.

DENVER OFFICE of the Market News Service will move on May 1 to Rooms 229-231 of the new United States Customs House, at 721- 19th St.

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.,** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas	Pears*	Sept. 3	Nov. 3*
		H. S. Duncan	Apples	Sept. 3	May 29
			Onions*	Sept. 3	Apr. 11*
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 1
			Cabbage*	Sept. 3	Mar. 28*
			Celery*	Sept. 3	Jan. 10*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Oct. 4*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Oct. 29*
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 29
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.,** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30
IDAHO FALLS, IDA., 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 2
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.,** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	May 29
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.,** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 24	Nov. 7*
			Onions*	Oct. 24	Apr. 21*
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 15
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 15
			Spinach*	Jan. 5	Mar. 7*
			Beets	Jan. 5	May 15
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 15
			Beans	Mar. 20	May 15
			Potatoes	Mar. 30	May 15
			Onions	Apr. 6	May 29
			Tomatoes	Apr. 23	May 29
HAMMOND, LA., P.O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 15
LAREDO, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	801	W. D. Googe	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23
HASTINGS, FLA.** Power & Light Bldg.	851	B. E. Surry	Potatoes	Apr. 8	May 20
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 14	May 23
BRADENTON, FLA.** Pier Bldg.	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	May 29
BELLE GLADE, FLA.**	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans	Apr. 20	May 16
			Peppers	Apr. 20	May 16
			Tomatoes	Apr. 20	May 16
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
CHADBOURN, N.C.**	805	A. M. McDowell	Stbr.	May 1	May 16
BRAWLEY, CALIF.**	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 4	July 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS.	809	L. C. Tate	Vegs.	May 6	June 6
			Tomatoes	June 1	June 27
MOBILE, ALA.**	924	J. B. Owens	Potatoes	May 12	June 13
MONETT, MO.**	857	W. G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 15	May 29

** State cooperating. * Reports discontinued.

J. B. Owens in Chicago W. F. Cox in San Francisco

H. E. Rutland at Presque Isle, Me.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. COLD WEATHER HITS NORTHWESTERN CROPS

Two reports have been received regarding damage from low temperatures in the Pacific Northwest. The first is a telegram of April 22 from L. G. Schultz, at Boise, reading as follows:-

"Temperatures low as 21 degrees on nights of April 18 and 19 caused considerable damage in upper Boise Valley, especially to soft fruits, prunes, Jonathan and Delicious apples, ranging from slight to 75%. Principal apple sections report only slight damage. Lewiston reports practically no damage to any fruits. Freezing temperatures forecast for Boise and vicinity tonight. Will advise later, soon as can make definite check of all districts."

The other report came in a letter of April 18 from F. E. Bailey at Yakima, Washington, reading as follows:-

"You may be interested in knowing that temperatures officially reported as low as 25° F. prevailed over eastern Washington last night. Kennewick, in the center of the early asparagus and strawberry section, was expected to have a minimum of 26° F. No report has been received from there this morning but, judging from Yakima temperatures, this minimum was probably reached. With asparagus shipments just getting under way and strawberries approximately in full bloom, damage will result to both of these crops and asparagus shipments will probably be curtailed for a few days.

"At Yakima, pears are in full bloom, and in the lower-altitude sections the apple bloom is breaking. Undoubtedly some damage has been done to both apples and pears in Yakima, and I presume a somewhat similar condition exists in parts of north-central Washington or the Wenatchee-Okanogan district.

"The local office of the U.S. Weather Bureau predicts that temperatures similar to those of last night will prevail again tonight; so the extent of the damage of this frost period will not be known before the first part of next week."

Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, included the following comment in a telegram dated April 22:-

"Light frost in Palisade peach section on Tuesday morning, but reports indicate no damage although trees full bloom."

2c. CROP AND MARKET NEWS FROM LOUISVILLE

T. C. Curry has recently opened the inspection office at Louisville, Ky., and he sent the following comments in a letter dated April 21:-

"I was very much surprised to learn through local dealers that there were enough old-crop onions, mostly Indiana stock, in storage here to supply the trade until the local crop comes on. They are of the opinion that there will be very few Texas onions handled here for this reason. Storage holdings are reported as mostly of good quality and condition.

"Dealers also inform me that most of the new potatoes come from Texas. Very few Florida potatoes are used. In fact, one dealer remarked that he

(continued over)

did not believe there had been a car here in two years. Some dealers, however, are planning to try a car or two soon, to see whether Florida stock will take with the trade. Florida potatoes may be received with favor, as the majority of Texas stock is smaller than the trade cares for.

"Observations so far lead me to believe that a better class of produce is demanded and handled here than in many markets. For example, - practically all bananas are first-class eights and nines, while in many markets only fives, sixes and many rejects are used.

"Crop conditions in the Louisville district are good, and farmers seem to be elated over the fact that we are having many days with a slow drizzling rain, which is certainly what this section needs. Strawberries from the Bowling Green and Paducah sections should be moving in car-lots by May 15 or 20."

3c. INSPECTIONS IN FLORIDA DURING FIRST HALF OF APRIL

The following is a summary of a report from O. G. Strauss, Supervising Inspector for Florida:-

FRUITS

	Grapefruit	Oranges	Tangerines	Mixed	Total
Fruit inspections Apr.1-15:	7	8	-	1	16
" " to Mar. 31:	485	638	40	337	1500
" " through Apr.15:	492	646	40	338	1516

VEGETABLES

	Beets	Cab-bage	Car-rots	Cel-ery	Cukes	Letc.	Pep-pers	Pota-toes	Strbr.	Toma-toes	Mxd.	Total
Apr. 1-15:	-	17	-	1024	-	-	-	13	12	-	-	1066
to Mar.31:	1	11	8	2686	15	22	61	1	167	40	30	3042
thru Apr.15:	1	28	8	3710	15	22	61	14	179	40	30	4108

Total fruit and vegetable inspections Apr. 1-15:- 1082

Season totals through April 15:

Year:-	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
Cars:-	5624	3963	4661	2820	6224

4c. HOW TO GRADE BERMUDA ONIONS

Attached to this Division Letter is a sheet, giving instructions relative to the grading of Bermuda onions. Each inspector should detach the sheet and place it in the Bermuda Onion Inspection circular in the Handbook.

5c. NEW GRADES SENT TO INSPECTORS

With this D.L., each inspector will receive copies of two new grades, prepared by Mr. Pailthorp's project:-

United States Standards for Red Sour Cherries for Manufacture.

United States Standards for Faba (Fava) Beans.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 15
MAINE:	G. R. Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 1	May 1
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, Hammond, La.	Strawberries	Apr. 1	May 2
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	May 15
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, c/o State Div. of Markets, Montgomery, Ala.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 13 Apr. 13	May 1 June 15
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Van Buren, Ark.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 27 May 10	July 1 July 1

REPORTS on vegetables from the Winter Garden (Crystal City) district of Texas can be had through the San Antonio office.

6c. ONION INSPECTIONS IN MICHIGAN

J. E. Dickerson advised the Washington office in a letter of April 17 that the shipping-point inspections of onions in Michigan this past winter totaled 246 cars, about 185 of these being for one firm. He states that both growers and shippers appeared to be very favorable to inspection and, if Michigan has a good crop of onions the coming season, there is a possibility of inspecting 2,000 cars.

COPIES of the revised list of inspection offices and inspectors will be distributed with next week's Division Letter.

7c. DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ON CERTIFICATES

About this season of the year, daylight saving time goes into effect in many of the larger cities. Since railroad claim-agents and others may make inquiries as to whether the time shown on certificates of inspection is standard or daylight saving time, the letters "D.S." should be placed after the "A.M." or "P.M." by all offices in cities using daylight saving time. This will avoid confusion, should certificates come into court as evidence. STOP

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

For the next month, B. C. Boree will spend practically all of his time at the offices of the Civil Service Commission, helping to rate the papers submitted by 350 to 400 persons who took the recent examination for Junior Marketing Specialist. This is one of the largest groups ever to take an examination for positions in our Bureau.

Among the large number of marketing officials who attended the session last Tuesday of the Atlantic States Division of the National Assn. of Marketing Officials were M. W. Baker, of our Columbus office; D. M. James, of the Harrisburg office; W. C. Lynn, of the Trenton office, and T. W. Ayres, of the New York City staff. The addresses delivered by Mr. Butner and Mr. Sherman were well received.

G. K. York, of the California market-news staff, was also a visitor in Washington this week. He came from the Sacramento office.

Brice Edwards has returned to the Washington office, after nearly seven weeks' field work in the interest of enforcement of the P.A.C. Act.

Instead of remaining at Sanford, Fla., J. B. Owens proceeded to the Chicago office of the Market News Service early this week, and will remain there until he opens the field station on potatoes at Mobile, Ala., about May 12.

R. L. Spangler, of Mr. Pailthorp's project, plans to leave Washington on Sunday for Hammond and other points in Louisiana. He will make investigations with a view to preparing United States grades for strawberries for canning. This work may require about 10 days' time.

A. M. McDowell expects to leave the Atlanta office early next week and proceed to Chadbourn, N.C., where he will issue market reports on strawberries. This is Mr. McDowell's first field assignment.

H. K. Foulk and J. W. Ballentine, two licensed inspectors from Florida, have gone to Porto Rico, where they will assist A. S. Mason with the shipping-point work on grapefruit and oranges.

Congratulations are extended to Chester Siegmund, of the Kansas City office, on the arrival of a daughter in his home.

(continued on Page 269)

GRADING BERMUDA ONIONS UNDER GRADES RECOMMENDED MARCH 18, 1930.

It is not expected that an inspector in a receiving market will often have to determine the grade of any lot; that is, he will not have to analyze a lot to find out into what grade it will fall. As a rule, he will inspect a lot to see if it meets the grade indicated by marks, or the grade specified in the terms of sale, or the grade as certified at shipping-point. However, the inspector must be able to apply these grades, for he will not always know the grade called-for in the contract of sale.

Perhaps the simplest way to analyze a lot of Bermuda onions is as follows:

Make scorings according to the headings given below:

Take Example I. The 18% Pinks immediately classes the lot as "Pinks." The 15% over $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches classes the lot as "Large." Now we know the grade is to be "Large Pink." Knowing this, we should not score the percentages of "Pinks" and "Large" against the grade but should score all other defects, including undersize. In this particular example, add the 10% splits, etc., plus the 20% doubles, etc., plus 5% undersize. This makes 35% of onions which are not U.S. No. 1 Large Pink. Subtracting this from 100% we have 65% of onions which meet U.S. No. 1 Large Pink and the lot grades "U.S. Commercial Large Pink."

Inspectors should be careful to note whether or not the defects of No. 2 grade exceed the tolerance. For instance, in example No. VII there are 12% splits, etc. (defects of No. 2 grade). This lot must be designated "Unclassified."

Any lot containing up to 15% Pinks cannot be classed as "Pinks," because this designation cannot be used unless the lot has more than 15% Pinks.

(over)

Any lot containing 6% to 15% Pinks cannot be classed as "No. 1" or "Commercial," because the tolerance for Pinks in each of these grades is limited to 5%. Such a lot should be classed as No. 2 grade or Unclassified, depending on other defects.

It is important that inspectors note this fact - that, for example, when requested to inspect for U.S. Commercial (without Pink or Large designations), the Pinks or oversize onions should be scored against the amount of U.S. No. 1's in the lot. In example I, if the buyer requested that inspection be made to determine whether lot met U.S. Commercial grade and also stated that he did not buy Pinks or Large, then the percentages of No. 1's should be scored as follows: Add 10% splits, etc., 20% doubles, etc., 18% Pinks, 5% undersize, and 15% oversize, making 68% of onions which are not U.S. No. 1. This would leave only 32% No. 1 onions in the lot and it would fail to grade U.S. Commercial.

	Splits Seedstems Bottle Necks Cuts	Doubles Dirt Sunburn Misshapen	Pinks	Decay Scald	Under 2"	Over 3½"	Under 1"	Over 2"
Example I	10%	20%	18%		5%	15%		
	(65% No. 1 Large Pink)		Grades "U.S. Commercial Large Pink"					
Example II	5%	5%	18%		5%	15%		
			Grades "U.S. No. 1 Large Pink"					
Example III	10%	20%	5%				5%	10%
	(50% No. 1 Boilers)		Grades "U.S. Commercial Boilers"					
Example IV	10%	40%	10%		5%	20%		
	(35% No. 1 Large)		Grades "U.S. No. 2 Large"					
Example V	5%	5%	8%		4%	10%		
	(68% No. 1)		Grades "U.S. No. 2"					
Example VI	5%	15%	16%		5%	15%		
	(75% No. 1 Large Pink)		Grades "U.S. Commercial Pink Large"					
Example VII	12%	3%	5%		5%	10%		
	(65% No. 1 quality)		Grades "Unclassified"					

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. FAVORABLE MARKETS FOR FLORIDA CITRUS FRUIT

In a letter of April 28 from Winter Haven, Florida, H. F. Willson sent the following report on citrus fruit:-

"There is considerable difference of opinion as to how many cars of oranges and grapefruit Florida will ship during the remainder of the season. A comparatively heavy proportion of the early grapefruit is going in the culls, and there is loss in dropping. According to various commercial sources of information, a conservative estimate would be 5,000 cars of grapefruit and 6,000 oranges yet to move. These figures include the proper proportion of mixed cars, which consequently are not listed separately. If the prices advance materially, more will be shipped. As one party expressed it: 'If the grapefruit market advances 50¢, we will find 2,000 more cars of this fruit.'

"Assuming that the 11,000 cars mentioned above is a representative figure, Florida shipments will total approximately 75,000 cars for the season, as shipments of all classes up to April 27 were 64,023 cars. There are some who believe that 11,000 is too high but, basing one's decision on past developments this season, the maximum figure will be more nearly correct, as the tendency has been to under-estimate rather than to over-estimate the movement.

"Market conditions are more favorable and prices are advancing on both oranges and grapefruit. Last week 367 cars of Florida grapefruit averaged $2.55 per box on the leading city auctions. On Monday, April 27, about 119 cars sold for $2.65. Florida oranges continue to outsell California fruit by a considerable margin. Last week 504 cars of California oranges averaged $3.15, while 428 cars of Florida fruit on the same markets averaged $3.75. On Monday of this week, the average of 153 cars of Florida oranges was $4. It is expected that the shipments of Florida oranges this week will be fairly heavy. Market conditions are favorable and California shipments were relatively light during the latter part of last week. Another incentive to ship now is that, beginning the latter part of May, cantaloupes will furnish keen competition for citrus, particularly for grapefruit."

2a. HELP LOCATE FLORIDA SHIPPERS

H. A. Spilman, of the Regulatory Branch, is endeavoring to communicate with the Florida Citrus Fruit Company, formerly of Tampa, Florida, or with B. P. Bagby, W. B. Coarsey, or (Mrs.) Helen Sparkman, who are alleged to be responsible representatives of this organization. Any employee of the Fruit and Vegetable Division who knows of the whereabouts of this company or its agents will please communicate with Mr. Spilman, at the Washington office.

3a. PROGRESS MADE UNDER THE P.A.C. ACT

At the meeting of the eastern State marketing officials, held in Washington on April 21, Mr. Sherman gave an address on the subject: "Progress Made Under the P.A.C. Act and Supplementary State Legislation Having a Bearing on This Act." The next day, the U.S.D.A. paper, "Marketing Activities," carried the following summary of Mr. Sherman's address:-

Progress Under P.A.C. Act

A statement of progress under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act was submitted to the conference by Wells A. Sherman, Division of Fruits and Vegetables.

Mr. Sherman reported that 50 opinions in cases of alleged violation of the Act have been rendered by the Solicitor for the Department of Agriculture, but that no hearings have as yet been held on these cases. He said that the Bureau hopes to begin soon to hold public hearings and get some decisions from the Secretary. He told of the experiences of an attorney who recently informed the Bureau that he had collected a total of $22,000 in claims, merely by threatening to invoke the Federal law.

Mr. Sherman expressed the belief that "one of the surest grounds on which we can inflict discipline will be the failure to keep records." Simple cases of non-payment are frequent among the complaints received by the Bureau, he said. In some cases the complainants propose to make the Federal Department a court, with a view to facilitating action and settling claims at less cost than would be entailed in bringing suit in the civil courts.

"One sort of complaint," Mr. Sherman said, "is that against the shipper who confirms U.S. No. 1 and then delivers a car on which he holds a certificate showing it was 85% No. 1. He takes his chances on being able to sell it. When the receiver thinks the car is not up to grade, he asks for re-inspection and wants a small allowance from the shipper."

Mr. Sherman said there are many controversies over indefinite contracts, and that it has become a more or less common device nowadays to add a few words to communications which always formerly constituted a contract. He said there is a considerable amount of dissatisfaction among the trade "over what they feel is the inequality in the method of settling railroad claims," in that partiality is accorded claimants who can throw traffic to a road.

Discussing State relationships under the new Federal law, Mr. Sherman said "there was some State legislation dealing with interstate commerce prior to the passage of the Federal Act, which I think almost any State Attorney General will tell the State marketing officials has been in effect superseded by the Federal legislation. Some States have quickly realized this situation and are putting themselves in a way to line up with the new conditions."

In connection with the licensing feature of the Federal law, Mr. Sherman said: "I do not know when we will get all people licensed, who ought to be licensed. We will furnish a copy of the names and addresses of those licensed in any particular State, and we will be glad to have information on those who are not licensed. Approximately 14,000 licenses have been issued to date."

In the discussion which followed, a number of State representatives expressed the opinion that the P.A.C. Act does not go far enough, because many of the complaints which come up in the States relate to poultry, eggs, lamb, etc., whereas the P.A.C. Act covers only fruits and vegetables.

4a. FIRST-AID MEDICINE KITS

It is desired to have a record in Washington of the branch offices of the Fruit and Vegetable Division in which a first-aid medicine kit is maintained. All offices having such kits are requested to advise the Washington office accordingly, addressing replies for attention of Mrs. Mills.

5a. ABOUT 4,000 CARS OF APPLES IN NORTHWEST ON APRIL 1

A recent letter from Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, stated that storage holdings of apples in the Northwest on April 1 were 4,160 carloads, divided as follows:

Yakima	2,252 cars	Spokane	28 cars
Wenatchee	1,672 "	Walla Walla	102 "
Hood River	106 "	Total:	4,160 cars

Mrs. Gerry added this comment: "While perhaps a large percentage of the apples in storage have been sold and are being held for April and May delivery, I believe that it will be necessary to continue our apple market report throughout the month of May. After two circularizations during the winter and spring, we still have 980 names on our mailing list."

It should be noted that, since April 1, the shipment reports indicate approximately 2,200 cars of apples moved from Washington and Oregon. These must be deducted from the 4,160 cars mentioned above.

6a. DAMAGE TO FRUITS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

On April 27, the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates released an official report, by J. S. Dennee, Agricultural Statistician for the State of Washington, regarding the damage from recent cold spells in that territory. The report was sent over the leased wire to all market news offices. The following summary was published in the Weekly Market Review:-

"Cold weather shortly after the middle of April caused considerable damage to apples and soft fruits in the Pacific Northwest. Strawberries also were affected. Damage to soft fruits and apples together in the Yakima Valley is estimated around 17% of the expected tonnage. Delicious and Winesap suffered more than other varieties of apples. North-central Washington reports practically no damage."

7a. A REVIEW OF THE WASHINGTON ASPARAGUS SEASON, 1930

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, has issued a 10-paged review or summary of the 1930 season for asparagus in the State of Washington. This is the first report ever to have been published on the crop in that State. Copies can be obtained directly from Seattle office.

THIS ISSUE OF THE D.L. was prepared under difficulties, as the typist who regularly cuts the D.L. stencils was obliged to be absent this week on account of serious illness in her home. Excuse the errors. -- Editor.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. NEW PACKAGES FOR HASTINGS POTATOES

An interesting report on potatoes in the Hastings section of Florida was received from B. E. Surry under date of April 27:-

"New methods in packaging are being tried in the Hastings section this year. One large grower has packed a few Spaulding Rose in 5-pound paper boxes. The potatoes are first washed, run over a grader, and then pass over a belt and into packing bins. Twelve of these 5-pound boxes are packed in a large, ventilated pasteboard box, making an even bushel of potatoes. One straight car of 500 bushels was loaded on boat last week for shipment to a New York firm. It is expected that the potatoes will retail for about 5¢ per pound. The first experiment resulted in some dissatisfaction with the grader and the washing processes, but improvements are planned to overcome these difficulties.

"Another shipper has loaded several cars of Spaulding Rose potatoes in bushel crates, and fairly good returns have been realized in comparison with barrel prices. Operators here have begun to fill orders for sacked potatoes in 50 and 100-pound bags. It is estimated that there is a saving of 60¢ for every two 100-pound sacks shipped, compared with a barrel holding 165 pounds. The freight on the empty barrel to New York is 15¢, plus an extra cost of about 45¢ for packaging. Several cars of sacked potatoes were loaded daily last week, with an increasing demand for this style of package.

"Loadings from the Hastings section increased considerably last week, when total shipments amounted to 776 cars, compared with 265 the previous week, bringing the total for the State since the first of the year to 1,864 cars. This is hardly one-third of the expected crop. Daily shipments should continue rather heavy for the next three weeks, with the peak movement during the first few days in May. The LaCrosse section will commence loading this week, while Federal Point and Flagler areas are about through.

"The local f.o.b. market was unchanged last week at $5.50 for No. 1 stock in barrels. As soon as heavy movement began, the market dropped to $3 for No. 2's. The anticipated drop in price of No. 1 stock failed to materialize; however, it was only with difficulty that operators were able to maintain the price, after the sudden increase in shipments. On Thursday and Friday, operators were forced to practically limit shipments to cars that were sold,- some growers stopped digging, and haulings declined the latter part of the week. Demand was generally good for No. 1's.

"A number of good yields have been noted, some growers reporting from 50 to 80 barrels per acre. The average for this section to date is probably a little over 40 barrels. The percentage of No. 1 stock has also increased, with an average around 80% and a few fields yielding as high as 90% No. 1's."

2b. ADVERSE WEATHER AFFECTING TEXAS ONIONS

R. G. Risser sent the following information from Crystal City, Texas, on April 24:-

"Continued cool, cloudy and rainy weather has further retarded the maturity, harvesting and shipments of the Bermuda onion crop of southern Texas. Weather conditions have been unseasonable and are more favorable for spinach than for the final stages of an onion crop, but, as the spinach season finished a short time ago, it is deriving no benefit from current conditions. The

onion crop, however, has not only been retarded but the quality of the product and the marketable yield has also been adversely affected. Reports indicate that the normal process of maturity has been repeatedly interrupted and growth resumed. This has had an unfavorable effect upon the grade, as there are many seeders which should be discarded in putting up the onions for shipment.

"Buyers are having some difficulty at present in getting sufficient U.S. No. 1 stock to fill their orders, and growers find that, to make this grade, they are obliged to throw out an abnormal quantity of onions as culls. The net result will probably be a reduction in the quantity available and suitable for shipment. Thrip-infested crops have not sized-up as might be expected in consequence of the continued growing weather and, while the onions as a whole have taken on some additional weight during this period, this is said to be more than offset by the effect upon the grade, which is a matter of more than usual importance under the present marketing situation. There are some predictions that the season will finish earlier than usual in spite of the late start, but perhaps this is largely a matter of guess-work at this time."

3b. LARGELY INCREASED ONION CROP IN CORPUS CHRISTI DISTRICT

Writing from Laredo, Texas, in a letter of April 26, W. D. Googe sent the following report on onions:-

"After being delayed by rains and cool weather, the Texas onion movement showed some activity the latter part of the past week. Shipments to date have been around 1,000 cars, or less than half the shipments to the same time in 1930. The Corpus Christi section has begun shipping, and the Winter Garden area has also moved a few cars. The greatly-increased acreage in Nueces and San Patricio counties (the Corpus Christi area) is a disturbing factor in the onion outlook for Texas this season. Plantings in those counties in 1930 were estimated around 500 acres, while this year 4,800 acres are reported. With favorable weather for harvesting the crop, that section will ship approximately 1,000 cars in 1931, compared with less than 50 last year.

"Shipping-point carlot prices the latter part of the week settled to mostly 80¢ cash-track and 90¢ usual terms for Yellow Bermudas in 50-pound bags. Crystal Wax brought $1.25-$1.30 cash-track and around $1.40 on wire orders. Onions loaded in crates were generally quoted 10¢ higher than the above prices. Loadings this season have run heavily to bags rather than to crates, which have been the standard containers for Texas onions in former years. These prices represent a decline of about 40¢ for each variety from those paid at the opening of the season, and are approximately the same as were paid a year ago at this time for the same grade of onions. And the grade is a feature of the deal this season. Practically all shipments to date have been of the U.S. Commercial grade, averaging 80% U.S. No. 1's. Too much rain and cool weather have resulted in many seed-stems and dirty onions, and so far very few strictly U.S. No. 1 cars have been loaded. Shippers are rather pessimistic on the subject of prices."

4b. HIGH PRICES FOR FIRST CANTALOUPES IN NEW YORK

E. R. Biddle wired from New York on April 27 as follows:- "First car cantaloupes from California selling today: Standards 45's Salmon Tints $18-$20; Ponys 54's $11-$12, few $12.50; orange-pack $7-$8."

5b. COLD WEATHER IN COLORADO

Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, wrote in part as follows, in a letter dated April 25:-

"The past week has been cold and damp, with a considerable loss to small fruit in the vicinity of Denver, which had blossomed previously to April 20. The temperature was slightly higher on the Western Slope, where no damage has been reported to date on pears and peaches, although there is still danger from freezes. A heavy snow has been falling in Denver for the past 24 hours and, although much of the snow melted as it fell, a considerable portion still covers the ground."

6b. NEWS FROM THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

C. D. Schoolcraft wrote as follows from Brownsville under date of April 26:-

"Markets in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas have held fairly well during the past week. The notable exception is the onion market in the Raymondville section. Quality of the onions in that section has been only fair on Yellow Bermudas and rather ordinary on Crystal Wax. A good portion of the Yellow Bermuda stock has been making U.S. Commercial grade, but only a small portion of the Wax stock has been able to pass that grade. Some of the first cars from the Raymondville section hit market in a rather poor condition and this fact, together with increased movement from Laredo and the Winter Garden district, caused a marked decline in prices and a slowing-up of demand. There is some talk of considerable acreage being abandoned around Raymondville, if prices continue at present levels. In many fields, quality is so poor that only 60% or 70% of the crop is merchantable, and the harvesting costs on this stock make it unprofitable to pull the crop. Movement from that section has averaged close to 50 cars a day this past week. Next week will see the active movement ended.

"Tomato movement is getting under way slightly earlier than last year. About 10 cars were shipped last week and movement will likely increase to 10 or 15 cars per day by the end of this week. Unseasonably cool and cloudy weather has caused rather marked prevalence of blight. Growers are spraying actively and damage may not be serious. Inspectors report the maturity of these early shipments as fairly good and the stock is being graded U.S. No.1. This stock is selling for around $3.50 per lug, f.o.b. Farmers are receiving 6¢ per pound for No. 1 stock.

"The potato market has held steady, with shipments averaging around 40 cars per day. This week will see the active movement from this section completed. Present estimates now place shipments for the remainder of the season between 300 and 400 cars.

"Demand for beans has been equal to the supply, with shipments around 15 cars a day. Bean movement will be somewhat lighter after the first of this week. Shipments will fall short of last year's movement by probably 200 cars.

"The season on cabbage, beets and carrots is practically ended. While shipments of cabbage are still running 30 or 40 cars daily from the Valley, and beets and carrots each six or eight cars per day, they are being loaded over such a wide territory that it is difficult to find any marked movement at any point."

7b. IDAHO POTATO SEASON NEARING AN END

L. C. Tate sent the following information in a letter of April 23 from Idaho Falls:-

"Dealers believe that there are around 3,000 carloads of potatoes in Idaho at this time. Although the market has given signs of improvement during the last 10 days, nothing has developed. Prices are now about as low as they have been at any time this season, with the exception of a week or two early in March. Reports from the lower country show that jelly-end is quite general in the potatoes held there, but the upper country appears to have held back the best quality potatoes, so that present loadings are of generally nice appearing stock im good condition. Small-bag business is about finished for the season, because of the danger of sprouts. California markets continue very sluggish this week, taking only occasional cars from Idaho. The Los Angeles market, usually a leading outlet, has received eight to ten carloads of new potatoes from nearby sections during the last two weeks, and these stocks, together with liberal boat receipts from the Pacific Northwest, have controlled that market.

"Local information concerning frost damage to soft fruits in the Boise-Payette Valley last Monday indicates that, beyond necessary thinning, the crop prospects have not been reduced. So I might say that, while considerable anxiety was caused, there is nothing of consequence to report.

"Onions are practically all planted in the lower country, and a few scattered acreages in the upper valley are still being considered for onions. But, due to the fact that they would have to be set with plants at this late time, I rather doubt that upper valley acreage will amount to anything, becuase farmers are generally not in shape to carry this expense."

8b. UNFAVORABLE WEATHER IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

T. R. Hall wrote from Seattle in a letter of April 24 as follows:-

"Heavy winds throughout the State during the past few days have been very detrimental to truck crops of eastern Washington. Prospects for a satisfactory season among eastern Washington asparagus shippers are growing less favorable, since the season is so late and middlewestern markets will soon be amply supplied with stock grown within trucking distance. Green peas, Iceberg lettuce, cabbage and other early truck crops of western Washington have also suffered somewhat, though it is too early to ascertain definitely the extent of damage. Some plantings in protected areas are unaffected, and from these limited spots will come the earliest vegetables.

"Growers of small fruits in both eastern Washington and the Puget Sound section have had an uneasy week, due to the frequent and erratic recurrence of frosts in different districts. It is too early to determine the extent of damage to the cherry crop in eastern Washington or to strawberries in western Washington and mid-Columbia or Kennewick districts. Cane fruits apparently have escaped damage so far."

9b. NORTHWEST CARLOT SHIPMENT REPORT

Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, has issued under date of March 16 her annual summary and comparative statement of carlot shipments of fruits and vegetables for the calendar year 1930 from points in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Copies of this summary can be obtained directly from the Spokane office.

10b. MORE RAIN IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

V. H. Nicholson sent the following report in a letter of April 25 from Belle Glade, Florida:-

"Excessive rainfall this week seriously injured the tomato and pepper crops on the East Coast from Vero Beach to Homestead. According to buyers who have come in from the Coast, rains have almost ruined the tomato crop around Ft. Lauderdale and Homestead. Quality this season never has been good, and the few remaining cars must necessarily be of very ordinary quality.

"The pepper crop around Pompano also has been seriously damaged and it is probable that shipments will show a sharp decrease after this week. Remaining shipments of peppers will probably show the effects of excessive rainfall. Prices of best peppers at Pompano have been reported around $3-$3.50 for Fancy stock.

"Probably about 165 cars of beans will be shipped from Florida this week, as the movement of today is expected to be rather heavy. From two-thirds to three-fourths of the total movement of beans is coming from the Lake Okeechobee section. The heavy rains did not extend over this section, and crops are in fair condition. Most of the beans that are now moving are of fair quality, with an occasional car of good stock commanding a premium of 50¢-75¢ above the market. Over two-thirds of the shipments are of the Bountiful variety. Growers and shippers are expecting the quality to be much better next week, and, if favorable weather continues, peak movement is expected toward the middle or end of the week. Movement after May 10 will be rather light, but, if weather and market conditions permit, shipments will extend until June.

"The tomato crop in the Lake Okeechobee district is in a fair condition but rains about 10 days or two weeks ago drowned some of the acreage between here and Pahokee. The acreage in the Lake Okeechobee section will probably amount to 2,000 or 2,500 acres this season. First cars were expected this week, but the movement to date has been limited to express lots. It now appears that there will be few tomatoes out of this section before May 5."

11b. HIGH PRICES FOR WESTERN LETTUCE

Nearly all the eastern markets reported very high prices last week on Iceberg-type lettuce. A. B. Farlinger wrote as follows about Cleveland:-

"We had a rather unusual market on Iceberg lettuce in Cleveland the last three or four days of the week ending April 25. Buyers were excited and fighting to get lettuce at rapidly-advancing prices. Supplies were quickly cleaned up, with California stock bringing $8 per crate, compared with $4-$4.50 the first of the week. Arizona lettuce in poor condition that could not be sold on Monday, April 20, for $1 per crate sold readily on Wednesday at $2.50. This gave local receivers and dealers an opportunity to sell all their poor-condition stock, that ordinarily could not have been sold at any price and in many instances would probably have been dumped. By Wednesday afternoon no lettuce was on the Cleveland market. On Friday, the 24th, a car of California stock arrived about 10:30 in the morning and in less than one hour it was sold, unloaded and delivered. Local dealers say that this is the most active market on any commodity that they have had in several years, and is by far the most excited activity that I have witnessed since being in Cleveland."

12b. MAINE POTATO MARKET WEAK

In his last letter from Presque Isle, Maine, W. D. Hull sent the following information regarding potatoes:. It is dated April 27:-

"Demad for Maine potatoes was very slow last week, which resulted in a further weakening of the local market to the low f.o.b. level of $1.30 per cwt., and street prices were lowered to $1.75 per barrel. Receipts were rather light immediately following this reduction, but, as the week advanced with no increase in demand, the farmers reconciled themselves to the low prices and sold more freely. Many of the shippers and a few of the growers have adopted the policy that it is better to sell at present prices, even though they are lower than expected, than to hold for higher prices which may not materialize and eventually have to haul unsold stock to the starch factories late in May at 50¢-60¢ per barrel. Total shipments for the season are expected to reach close to 55,000 cars, provided there is not too drastic a decline in prices received for the balance of the stock yet to be moved."

13b. BRIEF NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK

A. L. Thomas wrote in part as follows from Rochester in a letter of April 28:-

"Demand and trading im apples has been very slow during the week. Many storages are cleaning up as fast as possible, but the movement is not as heavy as it should be to clear the storages before real warm weather arrives. The quality of the fruit is only fair and very little of the stock will grade U.S. No. 1, due to scald, bruises, etc.

"The market for potatoes has held about steady. Any accurate estimate of the quantity remaining in western New York is practically impossible, but most dealers believe that about 200 cars remain to be shipped.

"There has been no demand or trading in carrots. About 52 cars rolled from the State this week and practically all were consigned. Dealers are getting desperate and are consigning to any market that will take a car. Holdings are heavy, both in the growers' and the dealers' hands."

14b. HAULING BY TRUCK FROM LOS ANGELES TO SALT LAKE CITY

L. S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, sent the following report in a letter of April 23:-

"Long-distance hauling of perishables is a subject much-talked-of by produce men in Salt Lake City, and has attracted so many truckers into the business that we are having difficulty in obtaining an accurate account of their unloads. However, I believe that we are getting a record of 85% of these receipts by truck.

"During March, 28 commodities, amounting to considerably more than 20 carloads, were hauled into Salt Lake City by truck. Practically everything except four cars of potatoes was from Los Angeles, a distance 700 miles. There are several refrigerated trucks on the road, one of which arrived with 24,000 pounds of produce. It is a 10-ton truck, with a gross tonnage of 34,000 pounds. Most of the refrigerated trucks, however, are of the 5-ton size."

15b. HEAVY MOVEMENT OF LOUISIANA BERRIES

R. L. Sutton wrote in part as follows in a letter of April 28 from the field station at Hammond, La.:-

"Strawberry shipments from Louisiana so far this season have filled 2,059 cars, compared with 1,312 to the same time last year. It is generally predicted that the total shipments will be in the neighborhood of 3,500 cars. Last year 2,388 were forwarded during the entire season. The quality and condition of the berries are holding up satisfactorily. It was noticeable yesterday, however, that the size of the fruit ran slightly smaller.

"Those in close touch with the deal are of the opinion that, with the benefits derived from a good rain, it is possible for the movement during the first week of May to exceed any previous record, but I personally believe that we reached our greatest outturn on April 20 when 190 cars were shipped. The carload shipments this season are receiving a wider distribution than has ever been known in the history of the strawberry industry in Louisiana.

"Because of the heavier production, there is a possibility of a local shortage of crates. Such a shortage would not be serious, however, because outside mills are in a position to place in this territory a large number of cars of material. There has been some talk of loading straight cars of 24-quart crates, but so far this has not developed. There have been, however, a few cars with a small number of quart crates loaded with the pints. It has been noticeable during the auctions that the few cars of 24-pint flat crates have sold from 5¢ to 15¢ higher than the standard 24-pint crates. This may be on account of the limited number of flats available, rather than because of actual preference for this type of crate."

16b. CROP NOTES FROM SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA

R. M. Peterson sent the following notes from Bradenton on April 27:-

"Practically all of the Sarasota celery crop has been harvested. The cutting was rushed, to keep as far ahead of the seed-stems as possible, and the precooling plant operated both day and night, packing around 30 cars daily all of last week. The shipments this week will be very light and may not total over 25 cars. Manatee County expects to continue to ship around 25 cars of celery per week until after the middle of May. The shippers still own a large percentage of the Manatee-Sarasota celery which is in storage at the terminal markets.

"The Wauchula cucumber shipments increased much more rapidly than was anticipated. The first car moved out last Thursday, 3 cars on Friday, and 8 cars Saturday. The movement this week is expected to run around 10 cars daily. All of this stock is from board-protected fields, and the quality is generally good, with a satisfactory percentage of the pack grading Fancy. The cucumbers in the Bushnell-Center Hill district, although 75 miles farther north, are slightly earlier this season, with around 15 cars out last Saturday.

"Manatee tomatoes have progressed nicely the past week. A few cars may be loaded toward the end of this week, but the movement is expected to be very light until after May 10."

17b. PROGRESS OF IMPERIAL CANTALOUPE SEASON

A. E. Prugh wired from Brawley on April 30:- "Five cars cantaloupes billed up to Wednesday, April 29. Heavy rain Sunday, with cool nights following. Movement expected slowly reach 25 cars daily by May 10, then showing usual seasonal increase."

18b. REPLIES NEEDED REGARDING ANNUAL LEAVE

Several men have not yet replied to Par. 10b in the Division Letter for April 10, regarding the periods desired for annual leave. If you have not made reply, please do so immediately, so that schedules can be prepared for the summer relief work.

19b. COPIES DESIRED OF STATISTICAL BULLETIN No. 30

If any offices have extra copies of Statistical Bulletin No. 30, which are not needed, please forward them to the Washington office. Our supply of this bulletin is exhausted, and it will be some time before a reprint can be obtained. The title of the bulletin is: "Carlot Shipments and Unloads of Important Fruits and Vegetables, Calendar Years 1927 and 1928."

20b. SAMPLE DAILY REPORTS SENT TO ALL OFFICES

A set of the daily reports issued at market and field stations is again being mailed to all offices of the News Service. We hope that these will be of interest in showing the various methods of arrangement and presentation of the market news material. Particular attention is called to the publication of the "12-Cities Track" report. A recent comment regarding this information reads as follows:-

"This report is now being received very favorably by the trade and they are desirous that it be continued. At first they were apathetic and seemed little interested, but they have found that the information is of value."

In view of the favorable reception of these combined track holdings, where they have been published, it is suggested that those offices which have not been using the report should arrange to include it in their daily bulletins, even where it is necessary to carry it one day late because of the hour of release.

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued from Page 290):-

Word has just been received that the residence address of H.A. Polster, in charge of the Dallas inspection office, has been changed to 5511 Ross Ave., phone 87-2193. Please make this change at once on your copy of the revised address list, enclosed with this D.L.

The change of address for the Denver office of the Market News Service, announced in last week's D.L., will not be effective until about May 15, as there has been a delay in moving into the new Customs House.

ALL EMPLOYEES everywhere should keep in mind that it is one of their duties always to keep the Washington office informed as to any changes in address or phone number of the local office, as well as changes in residence address or phone number. Sometimes these matters are overlooked, but it is important that Washington be kept advised of all such changes in the field.

SUPERVISING INSPECTORS should report promptly any changes needed in the table on page 288 of this D.L., so as to keep it up to date.

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas H. S. Duncan	Pears* Apples Onions* Carrots Cabbage* Celery* Peaches* Grapes* Potatoes	Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 3 Sept. 8 Sept. 23 Oct. 6	Nov. 3* May 29 Apr. 11* May 2 Mar. 28* Jan. 10* Oct. 4* Oct. 29* May 29
IDAHO FALLS, IDA. 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sept. 15	May 9
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	May 29
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples* Onions* Potatoes	Oct. 24 Oct. 24 Oct. 24	Nov. 7* Apr. 21* May 15
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage Spinach* Beets Carrots Beans Potatoes Onions Tomatoes	Jan. 5 Jan. 5 Jan. 5 Jan. 6 Mar. 20 Mar. 30 Apr. 6 Apr. 23	May 15 Mar. 7* May 15 May 15 May 15 May 15 May 29 May 29
HAMMOND, LA., P. O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 15
LAREDO, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	801	W. D. Googe	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23
HASTINGS, FLA.** Power & Light Bldg.	851	B. E. Surry	Potatoes	Apr. 8	May 20
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 14	May 23
BRADENTON, FLA.** Pier Bldg.	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	May 29
BELLE GLADE, FLA.** Glades Hotel	937	V. H. Nicholson	Beans Peppers Tomatoes	Apr. 20 Apr. 20 Apr. 20	May 16 May 16 May 16
CHADBOURN, N.C.**	805	A. M. McDowell	Stbr.	May 1	May 16
BRAWLEY, CALIF.**	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 4	July 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS.	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs. Tomatoes	May 5 June 1	June 6 June 27
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
MOBILE, ALA.**	924	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	May 11	June 13
MOUNTT, MO.**	857	W. G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 15	May 29
The following station closed on date indicated:					
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	Sept. 11	Apr. 30

** State cooperating. * Reports discontinued.

W. D. Hull en route to Mobile. W. F. Cox in San Francisco.
H. E. Rutland at Presque Isle, Maine.

INSPECTION SERVICE

ATTENTION! ALL INSPECTORS:

With this D.L. we are distributing copies of the April 20 revision of the list of inspection offices and the men at each office. Will you please examine very carefully the data published for your city or for your office, and advise the editor at once of any errors or omissions?

If any addresses or phone numbers are wrong, we desire to know this at once. If the personnel or any other details are incorrect, please let us know promptly, so that corrections may be issued.

-- DESTROY IMMEDIATELY ANY OLD COPIES OF ADDRESS LISTS ON HAND.--

1c. REVISED F.P.I.-8 LISTS

With this D.L., each city office of the Inspection Service will receive 10 copies of the F.P.I.-8 list, revised to April 1, 1931. Be sure to destroy all previous lists of this kind, to avoid confusion. It will be noticed that the new list includes a total of 47 offices.

2c. COPIES OF SPEECH ON SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

Each inspector will receive with this D.L. a copy of Mr. Butner's address on "The Operation Problems of State-Federal Shipping-Point Inspection," which was given at the meeting of marketing officials in Washington April 21.

3c. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA

Arrangements have been completed for Federal-State shipping-point inspection work on fruits and vegetables, particularly potatoes, with the States of Minnesota and North Dakota. The agreements will become effective on July 1, and it is expected that as a result of recent legislation in both States, dealing with potato grading and branding, a large number of shipments will be inspected. This leaves only three States - Rhode Island, South Dakota, and New Mexico, - in which there are no cooperative agreements for shipping-point work.

4c. CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LETTUCE INSPECTIONS UNDER WAY

"Lettuce inspections are in full swing in the Salinas and Watsonville districts. The inspection personnel has been greatly increased this week and additional men will be needed next week to handle the increasing work. The lettuce in the Salinas district is showing a wide range of quality, according to Mr. Hannaford. Tipburn in some sections is the principal defect, and on account of the good market some shippers are cutting before the lettuce has reached its proper solidity. A number of cars have been shipped out by express this season." -(from California "Inspectors' Notes," April 24)

"RELATION OF FOLIAGE to Fruit Size and Quality in Apples and Pears," is the title of Bulletin No. 249, recently issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Pullman, Washington.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P.O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 15
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, Hammond, La.	Strawberries	Apr. 1	May 9
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	May 25
ARIZONA:	R. H. Bertelson, BBB Bldg., Nogales, Arizona	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 10
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, c/o State Div. of Markets, Montgomery, Ala.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 13 Apr. 13	May 1 June 15
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Van Buren, Ark.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 27 May 10	July 1 July 1
NORTH CAROLINA:	G. R. Warren, Chadbourn, N.C.	Strawberries	May 4	May 16
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Strawberries	May 4	May 23

REPORTS on Maine potatoes can be obtained from Vernon Palmer, Inspector, at Caribou, Maine.

Reports on vegetables from the Winter Garden (Crystal City) district of Texas can be had through the San Antonio office.

5c. COACHELLA VALLEY ONIONS MOVING

"Word was received from Charles McConnell, who is now at Indio, Calif., that a few cars of Bermuda onions left this week, but these were not certified. Certifications should start this current week. With the Coachella Valley acreage only half that of last year and about one quarter of the acreage of two years ago, shipments will be the lightest since inspections were first made in the Coachella Valley." -- (from California "Inspectors' Notes," April 24)

6c. INSPECTION OF POTATOES IN SMALL SACKS

The potatoes from a single 15 or 25-pound sack do not constitute a fair sample, as one large defective potato would throw the stock out of grade. In some of the western States, when inspecting cars containing the 15 or 25-pound sacks, it is the policy of inspectors to use not less than three of the 15-pound bags as a unit and not less than two of the 25-pound sacks. In order to promote uniformity, receiving-point inspectors should follow the same policy and, by so doing, the inspection of these small sacks of potatoes will be based on about the same sized sample as is selected from larger sacks.

7c. SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

The "Inspection Letter" issued at Yakima on April 21 contains the following summary of inspections made during March at shipping points in the State of Washington:

Apples	2,140½	Potatoes	390
Mixed fruits	2	Rhubarb	4
Onions	8	Spinach	9
Pears	117	Nursery stock	1
		Total:-	2,671½

This brings the State total for this season, from July 1 to March 31, up to 43,294 cars.

8c. REPORTING RHIZOCTONIA AND SLIGHT SCAB IN SEED-POTATO INSPECTIONS

Inspection of seed potatoes should be handled on the basis of U.S. No. 1 grade, but the inspector may hereafter state the percentage of Rhizoctonia and slight scab, when a specific request is made for this by the applicant. This information should be shown on the certificate immediately following the grade statement. These instructions supersede those given in Par. 142 of the Potato Circular.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Wells A. Sherman and Paul M. Williams spent two days on a trip to Easton, Md., and Dover and Wilmington, Del., conferring with warehousemen, canners and others regarding the standardization and grading of canned fruits and vegetables. They returned to Washington on Wednesday evening.

Robert Bier is at Baltimore today, conferring with representatives of the Tri-State Canners Association and others regarding standardization and inspection of products for canneries. On Monday, Mr. Bier will go to Richmond, Va., to confer with Mr. Meek, of the State Division of Markets, regarding inspection work.

C. D. Shirley has closed the Houston, Texas, office of the Inspection Service for the summer months and has proceeded to New York City, where he will assist with inspection work until the reopening of the Houston office in the autumn. Please mark Houston temporarily closed on your new list of inspection offices.

(over)

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):-

G. R. Warren has completed his personal supervision of inspections of Maine potatoes and has proceeded from Caribou, Maine, to Chadbourn, N.C., where he will supervise the shipping-point work on strawberries for the next two weeks. Vernon Palmer, a licensed inspector, will be at Caribou to handle the remaining work im that section, and reports on Maine certificates can be had from Mr. Palmer.

W. W. Anderson will close the Birmingham office of the Inspection Service for the next three weeks, and will handle work for the Navy at Charleston, S.C., during this period, May 4 to 23. His address at Charleston doubtless will be:- Naval Landing, foot of Charlotte Street.

D. L. Lacy, of the Chicago inspection staff, has gone to Milwaukee to assist with the work in that market during the next two months. W. A. Hilgeson, also of the Chicago staff, has gone to St. Louis to assist with the inspection work during the greater part of May.

H. V. DeMott, of the Domestic Wool Section in Washington, is on leave at his home in New Jersey all of this week, but on Monday he will return to duty at Philadelphia, where he will examine records of 1918 wool transactions in connection with a case of alleged excess-profits during the war.

J. G. Cross returned to his desk in Washington last Monday, after an absence of nearly a month, due to illness and an operation in a Richmond, Va., hospital. He wishes to express through the medium of the Division Letter his thanks for the thoughtfulness of his friends in their expressions of sympathy and for the beautiful flowers and cheerful cards.

W. J. Bertush will go from Chicago to Humboldt, Tenn., early next week, where he will supervise the shipping-point inspection work on strawberries for about three weeks. E. E. Conklin, Jr., will accompany Mr. Bertush and assist in getting the work started at Humboldt, but Mr. Conklin probably will return to the Chicago office the latter part of the week.

W. D. Hull closed the field station on potatoes at Presque Isle, Me., on Thursday and will come to Washington for a day or two, before proceeding to Mobile, Ala., where he will operate the news service on early potatoes.

Instead of handling the market-reporting work at Mobile, Ala., as originally expected, J. B. Owens has gone from Chicago to Crystal Springs, Miss., where he will open the service om vegetables about next Tuesday.

At the March meeting of the Kansas City U.S.D.A. Club, F. M. Lyle gave a talk on the inspection of fruits and vegetables and explained how an appeal inspection is made.

ALL FIELD MEN of the Market News Service should examine closely the dates in list of field offices on page 286 of this D.L. and advise the editor at once of necessary corrections in dates or commodities.

-- (BE SURE TO TURN TO PAGE 285 AND READ THE OTHER OFFICE NOTES) --

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 19 May 8, 1931.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
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1a. NEWS ON PORTO RICAN PINEAPPLES AND GRAPEFRUIT

A letter of April 30 from A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector at San Juan, Porto Rico, includes the following information:-

"Pineapple shipments from Porto Rico are about at their peak. Last week's shipments amounted to around 85,000 crates. If it had not been for the extra heavy rain, shipments for the present week would have amounted to over 100,000 crates, but, under existing conditions, only 70,000 to 75,000 will go out this week. Next week should see a real peak of 100,000 crates. Fully 50,000 of these will probably be shipped under refrigeration, on account of the advanced maturity, as shippers were unable to forward these pineapples this week on account of the continued rain. Stock is generally in poor condition.

"Growers are rushing their pineapple shipments as much as possible, as they wish to move the largest percentage of their crop before the heavy movement starts from Cuba. Shipments here will be heavy until about May 13, after which time they will drop off about one-half or two-thirds.

"New York distributors seem to be getting a very good distribution on this fruit. Apparently over half the shipments are being sold at private sale out of the City of New York, and fully one-third of the stock sold at auction is being shipped out of the city. Last Tuesday's auction netted the growers back here about $1.75 per crate. Considering the heavy shipments and rather poor quality, these returns seem to be satisfactory.

"Yields this year are heavy, many fields running as high as 400 crates per acre, with a general average of about 275 crates. The present satisfactory returns will stimulate heavy plantings next year. Prices on slips have advanced recently from $7 to $9 per thousand. A great deal of high lands now in sugar will be planted this summer with pineapples, on account of the low price of sugar.

"It has rained here every day for the last 15 days, with a total of 17.10 inches. This has been good for the grapefruit but equally bad for the pineapples. Some grapefruit that had started to get soft is now firm and will remain so for another month or six weeks at least. We are inspecting about 65% of all grapefruit now being shipped, and next month I believe the inspections will run well over 75%.

"Some very nice letters have come from New York receivers regarding the improvement of the pack, in which they state that on properly packed and graded fruit theyhave been able to equal or beat Florida prices. Growers here seem to be well pleased with the results obtained and they are cooperating in every respect with us. All of this is very encouraging."

2a. GEORGIA PEACH PROSPECTS

A recent letter from O. G. Strauss, Supervising Inspector, indicates that the Georgia peach crop this year may amount to 12,000 or 14,000 cars. Uneedas are expected to start moving the latter part of May, and Early Rose the first week in June.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. A NEW VARIETY OF STRAWBERRIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

The following letter of May 4 from Chadbourn, N.C., is the first field letter written by A. M. McDowell. It is very interesting:-

"After many gloomy forecasts, most growers in the Chadbourn and Wallace sections are being pleasantly surprised with the returns received on berries during the first week of the season. Auction prices are the highest for several years.

"Quality of the early pickings has been unusually good. Local inspectors, who have been stationed here for three or four seasons, state that the quality of the early berries this year is better than at any time in their experience.

"Last Friday, a rather unusual condition occurred, when Missionarys at Wallace brought higher prices than Klondikes through the local auction. This was due to the fact that a number of truck operators, waiting at Wallace to load up for Saturday morning's market, found supplies quite light and bid up prices in an effort to get loaded out. Usually, Klondikes bring about 50¢ per crate more than Missionarys.

"A new variety is being tried out to some extent in the Wallace section this year. This is known as the Blakemore and is said to be a cross between the Missionary and the Premier. It is a little more necked in shape than either the Missionary or Premier, is a little firmer, and the seeds are farther apart, but it is slightly paler in color. According to unofficial estimates, there are between 100 and 200 acres of this variety in the Wallace district. Growers expect to receive 25¢-50¢ per crate more than for the Missionary variety. A few crates have gone through the local auction and have sold for about the same prices as Klondikes.

"Approximately two-thirds of the first week's shipments have been made by truck, but it is not expected that this ratio will be maintained throughout the season. The railroads are making strenuous efforts, through faster schedules, to regain some of the business which they have lost in recent years to trucks. Cars leaving Chadbourn late in the afternoon are in Potomac Yards the following morning, and second-morning delivery in Boston is being accomplished. It is probable that a much larger percentage of the crop from the Wallace district will be trucked than from the Chadbourn district, as Wallace has the advantage of being nearly 100 miles closer to the large markets."

2b. IDAHO POTATO PRICES LOW

In a letter of April 30, from Idaho Falls, L. C. Tate sent the following brief report on the potato situation:-

"Idaho potato markets have been rather weak the past few days and prices have sagged almost as low as they were during late February. Rurals have held up fairly well in price, but Russets have been declining. Dealers have various estimates of the remaining stocks in Idaho. Figures range from 1,500 to 3,000 carloads. Those who favor the lower figures claim that farmers are through gambling on high prices and are cleaning out their cellars as rapidly as possible. Judging by present shipments, 150 to 200 cars daily, this could be true, but some operators feel that there will be a heavy movement from Idaho from now until the middle of May, with some reduction after that time."

3b. TEXAS ONIONS FURTHER DELAYED

R. G. Risser wrote as follows from Crystal City, Texas, in a letter of May 1:-

"Growers of Bermuda onions in southern Texas are having their full share of trouble this season. Both weather and markets have been unfavorable. The season has been a notable one because of the exceptional duration of damp weather. The showers and cloudy days, with high humidity, have continued right up to the end of April, preventing the maturity and harvesting of the crop. Shipments from the State to date are but little more than half as many as they were a year ago, and movement from the Winter Garden section is proportionately farther behind than for the State as a whole.

"Considering the light movement and the small proportion of the crop marketed by May 1, prices are not satisfactory. While the cost of production was a little lower than usual this season and the general use of sacks has reduced somewhat the cost of packaging, growers have little if any hope of making a profit. With prices to growers less than $1 per 50-pound sack on the bulk of the product moved, and with the heavy movement still to be handled, the prospect is not very bright. The high percentage of culls and the light yields secured by some growers are also factors in cutting down the producers' returns.

"The output to date has gone to about 100 markets in carload quantities, but a still wider distribution is expected during the peak movement. Texas onions went into 46 States last season, and a repetition of last year's low prices and wide distribution is anticipated this season. Growers are hoping for some bright sunny days, which will permit them to get into the fields and prepare their onions for shipment. Shippers have experienced some difficulty in connection with acceptance of their sales upon arrival at destination, but, when the grade is confirmed by terminal inspection, there is less trouble in this respect than there was previous to the passage and enforcement of the P.A.C. Act."

4b. WESTERN NEW YORK SHIPMENTS VERY LIGHT

The following field notes came from A. L. Thomas, of the Rochester office, in a letter of May 5:-

"Trading in apples has been very light during the past week, and the carlot movement averaged about 19 cars daily, most of which were consigned. A slightly better feeling prevails for good apples, but most of the stock is of ordinary quality and condition. Total movement this season to date has filled 15,128 cars, compared with 8,849 last year to the same date and with a total of 9,253 cars for the 1929-30 season. Storages are fast cleaning up, and if the movement holds about the same during the next three weeks the shipping season will be practically finished.

"Farmers are beginning to pay more attention to their spring activities and are not paying much attention to the marketing of the remaining potatoes. Dealers report that nearly all sections are practically cleaned up and most of them are closing their loading stations for the season. They estimate that somewhere between 150 and 200 cars of potatoes remain to be moved, but it is hard to get any accurate figures on this, as nearly all the remaining supplies are in growers' hands and scattered over a large territory. Growers are receiving 70¢-75¢ per bushel, but some local dealers are offering only 60¢, which shows they have very little confidence in the market."

5b. RECENT NEWS ON FLORIDA BEANS AND TOMATOES

V. H. Nicholson wrote as follows from Belle Glade in a letter of April 30:-

"Movement of the bean crop is probably at its peak this week, but there will be a moderate movement until May 10 or 15. Tomatoes are just starting and the peak shipments can be expected around May 10 or 15. The prospects are that tomatoes will move until June 1, although movement after May 20 will probably be rather light. First cars of tomatoes have sold at prices ranging $4.50-$5 for Fancy count and $3.35-$4 for Choice count on a cash-track basis.

"Weather conditions here have been very favorable during the last 10 days or two weeks, although crops in nearly all other sections of southern Florida have suffered from excessive rainfall. Lake Okeechobee is already higher than at this time last season or either of the two preceding seasons, but, as long as there is no heavy rainfall, the pumps in practically all districts will be able to keep the water off the crops.

"There are approximately 2,000 to 2,500 acres of tomatoes in this district. The crop is in fairly good condition at present, and market prospects are good. If favorable weather prevails, this section might ship 400 to 500 cars during the month of May. However, the tomato crop in this district seldom reaches 500 cars, and I doubt very much whether it will this season."

A second letter came from Mr. Nicholson under date of May 2:-

"Until today, weather conditions in the Lake Okeechobee section have been almost ideal. But there has been a moderate rainfall today, and it appears very much as if the rain will continue for a while.

"Quality of beans this past week has been good but, if the rain continues, it is likely that few good beans will be shipped during the remainder of the season. Quality of the shipments for a few days after this rain will be rather ordinary. The total Florida bean movement for this week will probably amount to 275 cars, or an increase of about 100 cars over shipments of last week. If there is no further rainfall, shipments next week may be fairly heavy. With the increase in Florida and Texas shipments, prices to growers here have declined sharply. On Monday, most Bountifuls sold at $2-$2.25 and Round Stringless at $1.50-$1.75. By Friday, the market for Bountifuls had declined to mostly $1-$1.25 and the market for Round Stringless was mostly $1-$1.10, with trading very slow for both varieties."

6b. SATISFACTORY ASPARAGUS SEASON IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

T. R. Hall sent the following report from Seattle in a letter of May 1:-

"Contrary to earlier fears of an unsatisfactory asparagus marketing season, eastern Washington shippers have enjoyed a good demand throughout the week. A firm tone is characterizing the f.o.b. market in lower Yakima Valley districts, with $1.35 per 12-pound crate the universal quotation on all stock meeting requirements of Washington No. 1 grade. Shippers have assumed a very optimistic attitude toward this year's operations, and they confidently expect to exceed last year's carlot movement from lower Yakima Valley points into eastern markets.

"From present indications, strawberry picking will begin almost simultaneously in all northwestern districts. Aside from a few exceptionally early spots in western Oregon, harvesting will start about May 15 or 20. Some

frost damaged the early blooms, but it is impossible to determine the extent of damage at this time. A few growers in the Centralia-Chehalis district recall the late frost that killed a large part of the 1930 crop and are reluctant about entering into any contract agreements with the buyers. In general the acreage for 1931 is about the same as that for 1930, with the new plantings about offsetting those that were plowed up last year.

"The old-potato market continues dull and inactive. Such shipments as are being made are about equally distributed between middlewestern markets, California cities, and western Oregon or Washington. While speculators holding stocks in cold storage are extremely secretive about their holdings, it is the general opinion among the trade that cold-storage holdings for late summer trading are lighter than usual. Buyers are not active in their operations and $10-$12 per ton, sacked, is about the range for Washington Combinations, cash to growers."

7b. IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE IN MICHIGAN POTATO INDUSTRY

R. E. Keller wrote as follows from Grand Rapids in a letter of May 2:-

"Movement of Michigan potatoes decreased somewhat during the past week from that of the previous two weeks, but, even with this slight recession, activity was greater than during the earlier part of the season. Farmers who have held their stock all season for a high price in the late spring are now selling freely and are receiving less than the fall and winter returns. There is considerable speculation as to the exact quantity of potatoes remaining in the State, and it is rather difficult to arrive at an accurate figure, because the remaining stock is almost solely in the hands of farmers who are scattered widely over the northern portion of the State. Shippers now estimate that the carlot movement for the season will total 3,000 cars, which would indicate that there about 210 cars yet to be shipped. Possibly they are underestimating, as about six weeks ago most of them were positive the carlot movement would not exceed 2,250 cars; yet shipments now total 2,789 cars to date.

"Michigan's potato crop was almost a failure last season and all factors connected with the deal lost heavily. Preparations are now being made to prevent a similar production failure in the coming season. While the inferior quality during the past season was due largely to inclement weather, had the farmers planted early enough to take into account such inconsistencies of nature, they would have secured paying yields. Many of the farmers using the best cultural methods, good seed, and planting on the right soil had fair yields and marketable quality, showing that quality and yields can be obtained if proper production measures are used. At this time, shippers, railroad agents, and college extension experts are conducting an intensive campaign to get the farmers to use the latest approved production methods, in an attempt to put the potato business in Michigan on a paying basis again."

8b. TOMATO ACREAGE IN SECOND-EARLY STATES

A report of April 23 by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates shows a total of 41,000 acres of tomatoes in five second-early States, or about 10% more than last year. Considerable increases over 1930 are indicated for Mississippi and eastern Texas. Mississippi reports 14,350 acres and eastern Texas 21,650 acres. This is probably the largest planting in Texas.

9b. HASTINGS POTATO PRICES DECLINE SHARPLY

In a letter of May 4 from Hastings, Florida, B. E. Surry sent the following report on the potato situation:-

"Heavy shipments of potatoes from the Hastings section and a general decline in prices occurred last week. Prices of No. 1 Spaulding Rose, in double-head barrels, weakened on Monday to $5, then dropped to $4 on Wednesday, and held there for the remainder of the week, with only a fair demand. Operators attempted, after the middle of the week, to limit the movement of No. 2's to only those cars that were already sold, but growers continued to haul their small stock and, as a result, a considerable number of cars were rolled unsold and disposed of at a lower price. Demand for sacked stock dropped off considerably after the first of last week, and prices of 100-pound sacks have been lowered from $2.75 to a present level of $2 for No. 1's. Prices of No. 1 stock in barrels reached a new low level today (Monday), when practically all cars were sold at $3.50. This is in contrast with last year's low level of $6. Nearly all No. 2's in barrels were moved today at $1.50.

"A severe storm this afternoon, lasting for more than an hour, may cause serious damage to the potato crops yet to be harvested. The peak of this year's movement was expected to occur within the next two or three days, whereas now the diggings will probably not be resumed before Thursday. The LaCrosse section was not reached by the heavy rain and wind.

"Shipments of Florida potatoes last week amounted to 1,117 cars, compared with 776 the previous week and 700 cars for the same period a year ago. The total shipments for the State to date equal 3,000 cars, about 2,200 of which have come from the Hastings territory. Harvesting weather was ideal last week and haulings were heavy except for Monday and Saturday. The La Crosse section was loading from 25 to 35 cars daily by the end of the week and is expected to increase shipments this week. It is estimated that 57% of the Hastings potatoes had been dug by this morning, with slightly more than one half of the entire crop for the State already loaded."

10b. LOUISIANA BERRY SALES EXCEED $5,000,000 TO DATE

R. L. Sutton sent the following interesting report from Hammond, La., in a letter of May 4:-

"The later part of the Louisiana strawberry season was stimulated by the advent of a very beneficial rain on Thursday, April 30. Although the rainfall at this time did not greatly exceed one-half inch, it came as a great boon to the growers. They had been irrigating their fields for several days. The size of the fruit was beginning to show the necessity of rain and a general slacking of shipments was expected. This rain was followed by another of greater proportions on Sunday, May 3. At this time the precipitation was slightly in excess of 2½ inches. Any additional rain now will come as detriment to the crop. Yesterday it was noticeable that the condition of the berries was not as good as that earlier in the season. There were a few soft and overripe berries in the loads that were hauled to the stations.

"Total shipments this season to date have filled 2,692 cars, or 304 more than shipments for the entire season last year. The value of the carlot movement so far has passed the $5,000,000 mark. The volume moving through the auction channels alone has approximated $4,500,000. About 800 cars are yet to be shipped. Toward the last of the season, there is a considerable volume used by the cold-packers, which never moves in the regular trade channels. Truckers take most of the remaining overripe and No. 2 stock."

11b. LATE NEWS ON IMPERIAL VALLEY CANTALOUPES AND OTHER CROPS

A. E. Prugh as follows from Brawley in a letter of May 2:-

"Last Sunday, April 26, a heavy rain fell here, amounting to .91 of an inch. Such a rain at that time was the heaviest known in the Imperial Valley, according to old-timers. It was expected to hasten the growth of mildew spores, but cold nights and plenty of wind followed, which will probably overcome the effects of the rain. Cold nights following the rain also retarded ripening of cantaloupes. Unless the weather is too cool back East during May, the good quality melons now expected should sell at fair prices. Last year, mildew came on early and quality of the first melons was poor.

"The first melons shipped from the Valley this season were grown on a 40-acre field near Westmoreland and, instead of brush covering, a tule mat was used, which could be raised and lowered, according to weather conditions. Some mildew was showing up a few days ago on this early acreage, but was being held in check by spraying with a solution recently discovered, instead of the dry-sulphur treatment which was used in the past to combat mildew.

"The late, uncovered acreage will probably encounter marketing difficulties, as planting was delayed by February rains from about the 1st of that month to the 20th, which should bring the late Imperial Valley crop on with the Arizona cantaloupe crop.

"Up to April 27, the carrot market was dull, with an occasional f.o.b. sale around $1. Plenty of acreage was available for harvesting, but, on account of the market, most shippers had stopped packing. When track holdings on 11 leading markets dropped to about 125 cars the first of this week, the local f.o.b. price advanced to $1.25. But all districts then commenced packing and prices dropped, as United States movement jumped from 32 cars on April 27 to 94 cars on May 1.

"The first car of tomatoes moved out of the Valley on April 29 to Salt Lake City, and on the 30thtwo cars were billed to Seattle and one to San Francisco."

12b. MANATEE TOMATOES GETTING UNDER WAY

R. M. Peterson sent the following report from Bradenton, Florida, on May 4:-

"A few crates of Manatee tomatoes were picked today, and packing will begin tomorrow. But it is not likely that any cars will be loaded before Wednesday, when it is expected that three or four cars will be shipped. Loadings will continue light throughout the week, with a total movement probably not exceeding 30 cars. With continued warm weather, shipments should reach 15 or 20 cars daily the early part of next week, and movement is expected to be heavy by May 18. The vines are in good healthy condition. Quality of the tomatoes is generally good and the crop is expected to pack considerably more Fancy count than last season. Two or three cars of tomatoes will also move from around Wauchula this week, with 25 or 30 cars expected next week.

"Wauchula cucumbers probably reached their peak today, with approximately 20 cars out, and the loadings are expected to continue rather heavy throughout the week, with about 15 cars daily. A bad hailstorm this afternoon wiped out a small area about a mile wide. Heavy showers covered most of this section but did little or no damage. The cucumbers continue to be of good quality, but prices at shipping point fluctuated considerably during

(continued over)

the past week. Last Monday's price to the grower, mostly $3.25-$3.40 per bushel hamper of Fancy stock, was more than a dollar lower than that of the preceding Saturday. A low level of $2 was paid early Tuesday, but the anticipated heavy haulings did not materialize and the market strengthened to $3.25 before the end of the day. The average price then remained steady at $2.75, but reached $3 on Saturday. Today's heavy movement weakened the market to around $2.25 per hamper.

"Cucumbers in the Bushnell-Center Hill district are reported to have reached their peak movement today also, with nearly 30 cars loaded. Shipments from this section will continue rather heavy throughout the week, but are expected to be considerably lighter next week."

13b. A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CELERY SEASON

A letter of April 30 from W. L. Jackson, of the Los Angeles office, contains the following report on celery:-

"Loadings of Venice celery reached an early peak during the latter part of April and the first few days of May, when shipments ranged around 35 to 40 cars per day. Heavy movement of the crop was necessitated by the rapid development of seed stems in fields maturing at the present time. Most stock harvested during the latter part of April was from fields planted during December and January. Warm weather occurring during the middle of April caused the plants to mature rapidly, and, as a result, there was a heavy development of seed stalks. This forced growers to harvest the mature fields as rapidly as possible, in order to prevent loss through excessive growth of seeders.

"Shipments during the month of April reached a total of approximately 470 cars. Shippers are of the opinion that fields showing heavy seeders will be cleaned up by the first week in May, and conditions would then indicate a normal movement of celery from the producing districts of southern California in about the same volume as that of the 1930 season. May of 1930 was the peak month for southern California shipments last year, with a total of 728 cars. June shipments amounted to 709 cars, and the spring crop was practically all harvested by the end of July.

"Quality of present loadings is only fair. The heavy development of seed stalks has been the principal defect, and only an occasional car has been found which would grade U.S. No. 1. Seeders in most cars range from 25% to 50% or more. Some worm damage and pink rot is also reported. A somewhat lighter movement of celery is anticipated during May; with seeder stock fairly well cleaned up, the quality of offerings should show a material improvement.

"Demand for southern California celery has been active during the past two weeks, and the heavy loadings have been moved readily. The market, however, is somewhat lower than that of the corresponding period in 1930."

14b. DELAWARE TOMATO CANNERIES TO BUY ON BASIS OF GRADE

At least five canneries in Delaware will buy tomatoes on a graded basis this season, according to the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Contracts with growers are now being made, and it is reported that very little difficulty is being experienced in contracting on a graded basis. Many of the tomato growers in the State have believed for a number of years that the old method of buying tomatoes by the basket or by the ton at a set price is unfair to both grower and canner.

15b. LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CROP NOTES

C. D. Schoolcraft wrote as follows from Brownsville, Texas, in a letter of May 3:-

"The market on those vegetables now moving in volume from the Valley has weakened considerably. Potato shipments during the past week were a surprise to everybody. A week ago, it was believed that movement was going to slacken-off this week, but over 300 cars were shipped, or the heaviest shipments of the season. In all probability, movement will drop off sharply the fore part of the coming week. The few sales being made at the end of the week were about 50¢ per cwt. lower than the opening prices. Even with this cut, demand was very slow. However, most shippers have rolled their stock unsold or consigned it, rather than make any more drastic cuts. They feel that, with the season here practically over, the market on Triumphs will show some improvement before Alabama comes in.

"Bean shipments held at about last week's average or around 15 cars a day. Demand dropped off the latter part of the week and prices declined 75¢-$1 per bushel to a level of $1.50-$1.75 on usual-terms sales Saturday. The increased movement from Florida is partly responsible for this condition. Also quality here is not as good as earlier in the season. Shipments will likely hold at about the present level during the coming week.

"Tomato movement started rather actively the fore part of the week, but heavy infestation of blight showed up Tuesday and Wednesday, with accompanying decay in the cars after being loaded. This caused most shippers to hold off during the remainder of the week, except for those fields showing no infestation. The Weather Bureau announced that April of this year has been the coolest and cloudiest April since records have been kept here in the Valley. These conditions have been ideal for spread of the blight. It is rather expected that a few hot days will rapidly check the infestation.

"The first express cars of cucumbers were shipped during the past week, mostly from the upper Valley, Raymondville and Sandia sections. Prices on these ranged $2.50-$3 per bushel of Fancy stock, with Choice $1 less. Movement will increase somewhat this week. However, bulk of the shipments will come from the Corpus Christi section.

"Raymondville onions have moved slowly, with a slight price decline. Quality all season has been only fair, and this has kept down the demand. There will likely be a light movement from that section for the next 10 days."

16b. A DISASTROUS ONION SEASON IN TEXAS

W. D. Googe reported on the southern Texas onion prospects as follows in a letter of May 3 from Laredo:-

"The onion growing sections of southern Texas are experiencing one of the worst harvesting seasons in the history of the industry in this State. Some of the old-timers here say that they can remember only one other year that was nearly as disastrous. To date, cloudy weather, with mist and local showers, has been the rule. According to early reports this morning, all the main producing sections received a thorough drenching last Saturday afternoon and during the night. An inch of precipitation was reported officially here in Laredo. Other localities estimate as much as two inches, and a few of them had considerable hail.

"During the past week, Laredo was more fortunate than most onion sections and moved a fair volume of onions. The Winter Garden has shipped very

few cars, on account of wet fields. The coast sections have shown a fairly heavy movement, but this is due to the volume originating in the Robstown-Corpus Christi section, which in former years has not been an important factor in the onion deal. Reports indicate that damage of a serious nature has resulted from the excessive moisture, since the bulk of the crop is ready to be harvested, but that there remain a few late fields which may turn out a fair yield.

"During the week, prices have held steady to slightly stronger for best-quality onions. Only a few strictly U.S. No. 1 cars are being shipped and the demand for these has exceeded the supply. Off-grade stock is being neglected by buyers. The best U.S. Commercial Yellow Bermudas from Laredo generally grade 75% to 85% U.S. No.1 stock, and these cars have been cleaned up by cash buyers every night at mostly 80¢ per 50-pound open-mesh bag. The Crystal Wax onions have averaged around $1.15 per bag, cash track, but buyers are not very enthusiastic about the quality of this variety this season.

"With favorable weather during the coming week, the Winter Gardem will doubtless ship a large number of cars. Operators are fearful of what will happen to terminal market prices, if an appreciable percentage of that movement should be of inferior quality; and this, they claim, will surely be the case, if the movement is heavy."

17b. ADDITIONS TO THE CODE (Effective May 15, 1931)

On your copy of the code, please make the following additions -

"GOB" page:-

GOBUL - straight and mixed cars, f.o.b. usual terms.
GOBUP - straight and mixed cars, f.o.b. cash track.

"NA-NE" page:-

UK - Texas Yellow Bermudas, U.S. No. 1.
UM - Texas Yellow Bermudas, U.S. Commercial.
UN - Texas Crystal White Wax, U.S. No. 1.
UQ - Texas Crystal White Wax, U.S. Commercial.

These are to be used either with the prefixes for standard crates or for the 50-pound sacks which have come into such widespread use in Texas this season. These code additions have been suggested by R. G. Risser, at the Crystal City field station.

18b. HEAVY MOVEMENT OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LETTUCE

L. H. Howard, State representative in charge of the market news office at Salinas, Calif., sent the following telegram on May 6:-

"Estimate today's shipments of lettuce approximately 260 to 275 cars. Revised estimate for week ending May 9, including last Sunday, is 1,500 cars, which some assume to be the definite spring peak movement. This is about 10 days earlier than last year, owing to favorable growing weather. Cool nights aiding solidity. Effects of rain 10 days ago cleaned up. Tipburn, however, is general, ranging slight to serious. Quality bringing yields high as 240 crates in some patches, the same attributing to heavy movement this week."

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. FIRMNESS AND SPROUTING OF POTATOES AS RELATED TO GRADE

At this season of the year, firmness and the presence or absence of sprouts become factors of importance in the commercial desirability of old potatoes. The question has been raised regarding the certification of grade in lots of old potatoes which show sprouts and are not firm. It is not likely that many lots inspected will be sufficiently sprouted or soft to affect U.S. Grade No. 1, but the certificates will be of greater value if this information is included. The following conditions will cover most cases:

If the potatoes are all firm and free from sprouts or show sprouts around a quarter inch or half inch long, this condition may be reported but the potatoes should be certified up to grade. A lot may be generally firm and generally free from sprouts but contain not to exceed a total of 15% which are slightly soft or slightly spongy or showing sprouts less than one inch long. This condition will not affect U.S. Grade No. 1 and need not be mentioned in the certificate.

If a part of the load is firm and free from sprouts and more than 15% are slightly soft or show sprouts less than one inch long, the approximate percentage or fraction of the slightly soft or sprouted stock should be shown, as, for example: "Stock mostly firm, about 1/4 to 1/3 show sprouts, most of these sprouted potatoes being slightly spongy." Cases will occur when all of the potatoes are slightly spongy or practically all show sprouts less than one inch long. While this condition should be mentioned, it will not affect U.S. Grade No. 1.

Whenever there is an appreciable amount (more than about 5%) of potatoes which are decidedly shriveled and spongy or showing sprouts more than one inch long, the percentage should be determined and reported as defects of U.S. Grade No. 1. Such a lot of potatoes will usually have to be reported as failing to grade U.S. No. 1, as the total defects will generally exceed 6%.

Whenever soft stock or sprouts are present, it will be necessary for the inspector to clearly distinguish potatoes showing long sprouts or decidedly shriveled or spongy condition from those showing sprouts less than one inch long or those which are slightly spongy, as the former conditions are defects of U.S. Grade No. 1 and the latter are not.

The above plan has been followed in one of the States for the past two or three seasons and has seemed to work quite satisfactorily. It is believed that the same plan, with the exception noted below, can be followed to good advantage in the receiving-point work. In order to promote uniformity each inspector should closely follow these instructions:

When a lot is below grade on account of cuts, scab, growth cracks, etc., sprouts should not be mentioned in the grade statement. When the other defects do not exceed 6% but the total including spongy stock or potatoes showing sprouts exceeds the grade tolerance, the lot should be reported as failing to grade only on account of sprouts, treating this condition in the same way as decay which develops in transit.

2c. INTERESTING CROP NOTES FROM OKLAHOMA

In a letter of May 2 from Robert B. Landrum, who recently opened the new inspection office at Tulsa, the following information was given:-

"You may be interested in information regarding the crop prospects and conditions in the Muskogee district of Oklahoma, which I received while there early this week, investigating unlicensed dealers:

"At most points, growers' and shippers' expectations are for a normal potato crop. The freeze and frost damage seems to be very spotted, some sections appearing to have suffered no loss, while others claim that the damage will be about 20%. At Gore and Ft. Gibson, I was told that digging will begin at the usual time, while at Braggs it is claimed that they will be from 10 to 15 days late in starting. In most of the fields which I saw, the plants seemed to be in very good shape. However, there has been an excessive amount of rainfall in the past two weeks, and it is felt that the crop will be damaged considerably between now and harvest time if the spring rains continue much longer.

"In view of the hard freeze of March 27 and 28 and the frost of a week ago, I was surprised to learn that most growers in the district east and south of Muskogee have prospects for a good peach crop, some of them claiming that it will be the heaviest in years.

"The truck growers near Porum, Briartown and Stegler planted quite an acreage of spinach and radishes this season, but I was told that hail practically destroyed the spinach crop and that very few radishes would be shipped on account of the low market.

"One large vegetable farm, near Muskogee, planted about 200 acres in radishes, which are now being harvested. This is said to be the first time that one grower has ever planted such a heavy acreage of this particular product in the State of Oklahoma. I stopped at the packing-shed on the farm, and it was very interesting to see the speed and efficiency with which they washed, packed and loaded the radishes after they arrived at the shed. The washing equipment was designed by the owner of the farm and is adapted especially to the handling of radishes. With this device, they are able, with 15 packers, to wash, ice, pack and load five cars in a single day. To me this is very interesting as, in my experience at shipping points, it has seemed to require more work and a longer time to pack radishes, if done properly, than any other root vegetable. About 40 cars had been shipped when I was there, and prospects were for about 25 more, making an average yield of 225 to 250 crates per acre.

"The general feeling is that this large truck-farm project has been very helpful to the district by employing between 500 and 1,000 otherwise unemployed persons as field hands, in addition to the labor necessary for cultivation and trucking and at the packing-shed. The pay for pulling and tying is 20¢ per bushel, the average person earning from $1 to $1.50 a day. This seems to be a very small wage, but, when taking into consideration that many of these people were being fed and clothed by the Red Cross or local organizations until the harvest began, the benefit of even such a small sum may be readily seen. Although the market has been such that practically every car has moved on consignment, the operator of this farm stated that he would continue shipping as long as the returns will cover the cost of harvesting and loading."

THE FIELD LETTERS IN THIS D.L. CONTAIN A LOT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION.

3c. REVISED SHIPPING-POINT CIRCULAR ON POTATOES

A revised copy of the shipping-point circular on potatoes is being mailed to every shipping-point supervisor. All old copies should be destroyed. Supervisors should immediately advise the Washington office regarding the number of copies they will need in the conduct of this work this season.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:-

Mr. Sherman expects to go to New York City on Monday to confer with a committee of the Trunk Line Association on the possibility of the Department undertaking the inspection of fresh fruit and vegetable deliveries by the carriers in Greater New York. On Tuesday, he plans to attend the first public hearing under the P.A.C. Act at Philadelphia, this being the reparations case of the American Fruit Growers, Inc., vs. F. C. Spadaro and Company. The question at issue is whether the rejection of two cars of tomatoes and one car of grapefruit by Spadaro was or was not justified and, if not justified, to determine the amount of damages due the complainant.

H. A. Spilman will leave Washington on Sunday night for Raleigh, N.C., where he will appear as a witness in a case under the Produce Agency Act against R. O. Caveness. He hopes to be able to leave Raleigh in time to reach Philadelphia on Tuesday for the public hearing (mentioned above) under the P.A. C. Act. Others who will attend this hearing in Philadelphia from the Solicitor's Office are R. L. Dillman, C. P. Dorr, and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan, the last being a stenographer.

R. R. Pailthorp expects to leave on Tuesday for points in western States. He probably will stop at Chicago, Boise, Portland, Yakima, Wenatchee, Seattle and Sacramento. The main purpose of his visit to the Northwest is to attend the Washington State Grading Conference on May 21, at which delegates will make recommendations to the State Department of Agriculture regarding desired changes in the apple grades. It is expected that representatives from Oregon and Idaho also will attend this conference. At Sacramento, Mr. Pailthorp will confer with W. F. Allewelt and others on various problems of standardization. He may be absent for several weeks.

T. C. J. Baker, of the Standard Container project, plans to leave Washington on Sunday for a month's trip through the important strawberry producing districts of the Middle West. He will make a survey of the baskets used for shipping berries and will visit the principal loading points in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky. On this trip, Mr. Baker will also make visits to package factories in Illinois, Indiana and other central States; he may also stop at Cincinnati, Ohio.

H. J. Clay is assisting B. C. Boree in the marking of examination papers for Junior Marketing Specialist at the Civil Service Commission.

C. R. Newton and W. H. Steinbauer, of the Regulatory Branch, expect to proceed to Pittsburgh on Sunday for the purpose of making investigations under the P.A.C. Act.

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OFFICE NOTES (Continued):-

C. D. Shirley was delayed in leaving Houston, Texas, for New York City and did not arrive in New York until Wednesday night. Judging from leased-wire messages received from Mr. Shirley en route, he must have endeavored to make at least a part of the trip by airplane, as a message came from St.Louis that his "plane had been forced down near Tulsa, Oklahoma."

Wm. E. Leigh accompanied Robert Bier to Baltimore last Friday, and they report having had a very encouraging meeting with representative canners and others regarding the standardization and inspection of tomatoes for canning

W. D. Hull spent Wednesday in the Washington office, en route from Presque Isle, Maine to Mobile, Ala., where he will operate the news service on potatoes. He reports considerable improvement in the health of H. E. Rutland, who plans to spend the summer at a health-camp located at Shin Pond, Maine.

The list of temporary field stations of the Market News Service is not being published in this D.L., but the following changes should be noted by all interested employees:- The Idaho Falls office will be closed this Saturday, May 9. The field station at Monett, Mo., will not be opened until about May 22, as the berry crop in that territory has been delayed. Reports on strawberries at Chadbourn, N.C., may be continued until about May 23.

L. C. Tate, who closes the field station at Idaho Falls this week, will proceed to the Minneapolis office, where he will be permanently assigned to assist with the work of this Division. He will stop at Denver for a few days' leave, and expects to reach Minneapolis by May 16.

Enlargement of the work and the staff in Pennsylvania has necessitated the appointment of two more cooperative employees as Agents:- Kenneth R. Slamp has been appointed to the Harrisburg office; he is a brother of our H. S. Slamp, in the Philadelphia inspection office. Charles L. Packard is expected to be appointed to the Scranton office, effective May 16.

E. E. Conklin, Jr., went from Humboldt, Tenn., to Crystal Springs, Miss., and spent Tuesday and Wednesday with F. S. Kinsey, Supervising Inspector in Mississippi. He planned to return to Humboldt on Thursday, when strawberry inspections would be started at that point. W. J. Bertush will supervise the strawberry work in western Tennessee.

H. S. Stiles, of the Boston market-news office, has been subpoenaed to appear as a witness in the Suffolk Superior Court next Tuesday in a case involving market quotations of last summer.

The following correction and addition have been received on the new address-list of inspection offices, distributed last week. Please change, on your copy of the April 20th list, the office telephone at Memphis from No. 6-8610 to No. 8-1303. Under W. F. Plummer's name at Boston, insert his residence phone number as Lexington 0888-J. Please make note of the fact that the Toledo office of the Inspection Service is in Room 10 (as shown on the new list) and no longer in Room 2 of the Main P.O. Bldg. Note also that the Buffalo office is now in Room 242 of the Federal Bldg., but the Buffalo telephone number remains unchanged. The new list is correct as to Buffalo.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 20 May 15, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PORTO RICAN FRUITS

On May 5, A. S. Mason wrote from San Juan, Porto Rico, as follows:-

"Grapefruit shipments will be light for the next two weeks, on account of lack of refrigerated space on the boats. The pineapples are ripening extra fast, making it necessary to ship a larger percentage under refrigeration. Heavy rains that have been general over the whole district for the past two weeks caused the pineapples to become full of water and that, along with the hot weather we are now having, caused them to ripen very fast. From 25% to 50% of the pineapples now being picked are too ripe even to ship under refrigeration and must be consigned to the canneries. The heavy rains that were so injurious to the pineapples have been equally beneficial to the grapefruit. I expected to see scab develop on account of the rain but, so far, growers are reporting very little development of scab. Practically all of them are now spraying as an extra safeguard.

"Last Sunday we inspected practically 11,000 boxes that were placed on the 'Doric Star' for direct shipment to England. In fact we inspected every box that was shipped on this boat. Shipments were about 9,000 boxes less than expected, due to the fact that the growers could not pick and pack on account of the rain.

"I believe that there are between 650,000 and 700,000 boxes of fruit to be shipped between now and the first of September. Some of this fruit can be safely held until August, but some of it, if held too long, - specially that on the young trees, - will become too nosey or too coarse in texture to be worth shipping. We have about 70% of all the fruit signed for inspection."

2a. APPLE COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS, MAY 1

Below is the May 1 report of total cold-storage holdings of apples, which was released in Washington on Tuesday:-

	Barrels	Boxes	Baskets
May 1, 1931:-	87,000	3,684,000	583,000
May 1, 1930:-	229,000	2,446,000	763,000
5-year Avg.:-	415,000	2,553,000	535,000

About 63% of the boxes werestill held in Pacific Coast States. The total holdings under refrigeration were equivalent to 1,509,000 barrels, which is 16% more than last May and 5% above average.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. LOUISIANA STRAWBERRY SEASON ESTABLISHES NEW RECORDS

Writing from Hammond in a letter of May 12, R. L. Sutton tells of the high records for shipments and value of strawberries being established in Louisiana this year:-

"The 1931 crop of strawberries in Louisiana is going to break all records. With over 3,500 cars already shipped, indications are that the season's movement to market will fill at least 4,000 cars. The shipments this season through May 10 have to their credit a value slightly in excess of $6,250,000. The actual auction sales alone for this same period have almost reached $5,335,000. That portion of the crop which is shipped to market this season will finally realize in the neighborhood of $7,000,000."

2b. SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA PRICES DECLINING

R. M. Peterson included the following information in a letter of May 11 from Bradenton, Fla.:-

"The Wauchula cucumber market held steady around $2.25 per bushel hamper of Fancy stock until the last of the week, when the price dropped to $1.75. Further weakness developed today, with most Fancy grades bringing only $1.25. The quality of the stock from the older fields is getting poorer but many of the fields are still in good condition. The shipmemts this (present) week are not expected to average over five or six cars daily, after which the season will be practically ended.

"Manatee tomatoes were very slow in starting, but harvesting should increase rapidly this week. From 100 to 125 cars will probably move during the week. The quality of first pickings was only fair, but the stock is looking much better today and is expected to be generally good in a day or two. The size is good, packing heavy to 6x6 and larger. The demand has been very slow and the prices have dropped considerably since the first car was sold, with today's cash-track market weak at $3 per lug."

3b. IDAHO POTATO MARKET SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

In his closing letter from Idaho Falls on May 7, L. C. Tate included the following information:-

"The f.o.b. market has advanced 5¢-10¢ per cwt, under a good demand. Best Russets have reached a top of 80¢, cash-track. Perhaps 2,500 cars of potatoes remain to be shipped from the State, although dealers claim only about one-half that amount is within sight and they are reluctant to anticipate heavy loadings. Many localities are cleaned up, but the principal loading stations, such as Idaho Falls, Shelley, Blackfoot, Burley, Twin Falls and Rupert, still have a considerable quantity of potatoes on hand.

"There has been a liberal movement of seed stock into Utah, especially to the district around Cedar City, a comparatively new producing section in the southwestern part of the State; so that we may expect a large increase in plantings of Russets there this year. Prior to this time, the seed movement in Idaho has been limited, but this week the lower Valley has taken 25 to 30 cars."

4b. RAINY WEATHER STILL AFFECTING TEXAS ONIONS

W. D. Googe wrote as follows from Laredo in a letter of May 10:-

"Rainy weather continued to retard the Texas onion movement during the past week. Scattered showers have occurred almost daily, while heavy rains fell in most sections on Monday and Wednesday nights. The week started off wet, after the downpour on Saturday night, May 2. On many days it has been too wet to get into the fields with trucks for hauling, even though the onions 'on the borders' became dry enough to be shipped. Heavy losses in the total yield are being reported in many sections, and some fields have been abandoned. A few growers who had sold their crops on contracts have given up the escrow money held in the banks. A great deal of rough and discolored stock is seen, since lack of dry weather has prevented onions from shedding off the dirty husks during the handling processes. Considerableslight sun-scald is being reported, and dealers are rather skeptical of the carrying quality of the onions shipped during the week.

"However, tho unfavorable weather became less intense as the week closed, and more than 400 cars were shipped Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Up to May 9 Texas had moved 2,262 cars of onions; to the same date last year the total was 3,477 cars. The Laredo section will just about clean up during the coming week, with a total of 950 or possibly 1,000 cars. The Raymondville section has practically finished with around 650 cars. The number to be shipped from the Robstown-Corpus Christi sections will depend largely upon the weather and market conditions. But estimates of the total from southern Texas this season range between 4,000 and 5,000 cars, or 20% to 25% less than in 1930.

"Prices in the terminal markets during the week on a whole have been rather discouraging. In addition to the limited buying power of consumers, there seems to be a widespread belief among jobbers that Texas will ship a bumper crop of onions this year. The f.o.b. market held fairly steady, with good U.S. Commercial stock in 50-pound bags selling cash-track at 75¢-80¢ for Yellow Bermudas and $1.10-$1.15 for Crystal Wax. Usual-terms sales were about 10¢ higher than the above prices. The few strictly U.S. No. 1 cars available brought a premium of mostly 10¢ over the prices paid for good quality of the U.S. Commercial grade."

5b. LATE FROSTS IN COLORADO

Portions of a letter of May 9 from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, are quoted below:-

"Cool weather and frosts over portions of Colorado this week-end were dangerously close to the damaging point on the Western Slope, where the minimum temperature early Saturday morning was 33° at Fruitvale, 35° at Clifton and 38° at Grand Junction, with Palisade unreported. The forecast for today and tonight was for little change in temperature, with frost.

"Potato shipments from Colorado have ranged from 25 to 35 cars each day this week, with a total movement now of 17,628 cars. Prices of Rurals in northern Colorado dropped as low as 50¢ on Standards, with the price ranging up to 60¢ according to condition of the stock. No. 2's were reported as low as 40¢ per cwt. late this week. Remaining supplies probably do not exceed 300 cars, and it is doubtful whether that many will be shipped."

6b. HEAVY MOVEMENT OF FLORIDA POTATOES

B. E. Surry wrote as follows from Hastings, Fla., in a letter of May 11:-

"In spite of heavy rains last week (the total rainfall around Hastings exceeded four inches),- Florida loaded 1,1[illegible] cars, compared with 1,117 for the previous week and 741 for the same period a year ago. Shipments of 306 cars on Friday and 313 cars on Saturday, May 9, probably represent the heaviest daily movement for several years. Total shipments for the State to date amount to 4,145 cars, of which the Hastings section has furnished about 3,100 cars. Along with the very heavy movement and almost daily showers, there occurred a further decline in prices and a slight increase in quantity of poorer stock being shipped.

"The heavy rain of a week ago held up a large part of diggings around Hastings until after the middle of the week and the f.o.b. market was firm at $3.50 per barrel of No. 1's. With shipments increasing daily, however, the price dropped to $3.25 on Friday, $3 on Saturday, and $2.50 on Monday, with practically all of Saturday's loadings invoiced at that price. No hopes are now held for anything but low prices for the remainder of the crop. The anticipated rise in prices, after the peak movement probably will not occur. Several shippers and buyers remarked today that they would not be surprised if the railroads began to ask guarantee of freight on some cars, before the end of the week. On account of the excessive rains, some fields will be almost entirely abandoned. Decay has begun to show up in many fields yet to be harvested, and has already done considerable damage to some loadings of last week. With the uncertain quality of many cars, consignments have been on the increase. The demand for No. 2 stock has been very slow, with present offerings at $1.50 per barrel."

7b. NORTH CAROLINA BERRY MOVEMENT PAST PEAK

A letter of May 11 from A. M. McDowell, at Chadbourn, gives the following news on strawberries:-

"Peak movement of the North Carolina strawberry season should be attained in the first three days of the present week. Next week, movement should be considerably lighter, and after May 23 there will probably be little movement except of juice stock.

"Quality and condition continued very good through last week, but some stock on Thursday and Friday showed the effects of the rains of the previous nights. Today it was noted that many of the berries were soft, but this condition may have been due largely to the fact that no berries were picked yesterday (Sunday).

"Prices received by growers declined gradually during the week, the drop amounting to about $1.50 per crate at Chadbourn and about $2 at Wallace. This morning's auction opened considerably lower, following reports of heavy supplies and low prices in most of the terminal markets. The price today had reached a level where growers are able to make only a slight profit.

"Growers in the Wallace area appear to be pleased with the results of their experiments with the Blakemore. Prices received have sometimes been as much as 50¢ per crate more than for the Missionary. If the variety lives up to the other claims made for it, it may be tested more extensively. It is doubtful whether many plantings will be made in the Chadbourn area, as most local growers feel that it has little to recommend it over the Klondike."

8b. MISSISSIPPI CABBAGE SEASON DELAYED

J. B. Owens sent the following report on Mississippi vegetables in a letter of May 10 from Crystal Springs:-

"The acreage planted to cabbage in Mississippi this year is slightly less than last season, but as a slight increase in yield is reported the possible tonnage is estimated at 14,600, compared with 12,800 tons last year. Approximately 75% of the cabbage is in Copiah County, with Crystal Springs and Hazlehurst the main shipping points. The condition of the crop is reported to be very good, except in some instances where recent rains have caused severe bursting of the heads in the fields of more-advanced maturity.

"Shipments from this section began the latter part of April but the movement has been very light, as shown by the fact that Mississippi shipped only 175 cars during the past week. The heavy movement from competing States and the very low prices being offered are responsible for these light shipments. Although a great deal of the cabbage is ready to be moved, the farmers are holding back with the hope of improved market conditions in the near future. Should the markets improve, shipments will increase sharply during the present week.

"The movement of green peas from Copiah County is practically finished. While the season this year was somewhat later than usual, the yields and prices received have been very gratifying to farmers. Demand during the past week was good and practically all offerings sold readily for $1.15 per bushel cash-track and $1.25 on wire orders.

"The acreage of beets and carrots is rather light, due to the unsatisfactory returns in recent years. There is reported to be about 300 acres of beets and 400 acres of carrots in this county. The first car of beets was shipped on May 9, but most of these crops will move in mixed cars. A few sales were made recently on both of these commodities at 75¢ per bushel crate.

"The tomato acreage is practically the same as last year. This crop is reported to be a little late, and it will probably be the first of June before shipments begin."

9b. ADDITIONAL NEWS ON TEXAS ONION CROP

R. G. Risser sent the following information in a letter of May 7 from Crystal City, Texas:-

"The unusual duration of rainy and cloudy weather this season has been a serious drawback to the onion growers of this section of Texas. The movement of the crop has been repeatedly interrupted by showers, which have been so frequent as to interfere greatly with the curing and loading of the onions. Recently cash buyers have been holding off, because they feared that the condition and carrying quality of the product did not justify them in putting their money into available supplies. The amount of perceptible decay in bulbs loaded has been a factor which has made buyers cautious and apprehensive. Harvesting operations have been performed under difficulties, as the onions have not been easy to clean while damp and it has been impossible to secure the normal luster which enhances their attractiveness on the market. Hail has accompanied the storms to some extent and caused additional damage. The prices shown in current quotations must be considered in connection with the grade of the product to reveal a true picture of the situation. While the price for U.S. No. 1 stock is not exceptionally low, the bulk of the crop has not been making this grade."

10b. TOMATOES MOVING ACTIVELY FROM RIO GRANDE VALLEY

C. D. Schoolcraft wrote as follows from Brownsville, Texas, in a letter of May 10:-

"Tomatoes are now the major crop moving from this section. Around 160 cars were shipped during the week and it is probable that by the end of next week shipments will reach 100 cars a day or slightly heavier, weather permitting. The market here has been in rather an unsettled condition, due to uncertainty in the minds of shippers and cash buyers as to just what the outcome of the blight may be. A couple of days of sunshine during the middle of the week seemed to check it, but the past two days have been damp, with local showers, - ideal weather for blight, - and some feel that there may be a recurrence of the trouble.

"With the exception of tomatoes, there has been relatively little f.o.b. trading in the lower Valley this week. Potato shipments have held around the 50 cars a day, to the surprise of most everyone, but practically all have been consigned or rolled for delivered sales. The potato deal for Texas will move into the Sugarland section next week, with fair movement from that district by next Saturday.

"Bean shipments have averaged around 15 cars a day, but quality is deteriorating fast and next week will likely see the end of the bean movement. Onion movement from the Raymondville section was very light, with fair demand for stock of good quality. There are practically no good Wax onions left in that section, but there are a few cars of Yellows that will be shipped during the next week, after which the season there will be over. Periodic showers have delayed loading of the few cars that were shipped from that district last week.

"The first cars of green corn were shipped during the past week. Quality on these was ordinary, having been picked from fields that escaped the frost of March 9. These first cars sold at $2.25-$2.50 per bushel basket. The main-crop corn movement will get under way around May 15 or 18. Movement at this time last year ran 40 or 50 cars a day."

11b. CORRECTION IN TABLE OF PACKAGES PER CARLOAD

In the Table of Packages per Carload, issued January, 1931; please make the following change on Page 3:-

Snap Beans	General Range	Usual Loading
Florida, bushel hampers	579-750	600

This is in accordance with information furnished by V. H. Nicholson at Belle Glade, who states that practically all shipments from South Florida this season have been loaded to take a special freight rate which requires a minimum load of 20,000 pounds, or 579 hampers, and that most cars have been loaded around 600 hampers.

In order that there may be uniformity in the unload reports, all offices reporting l.c.l. or boat receipts of Florida beans are requested to make in their records any necessary revisions in carlot equivalents reported since January 1, 1931, on this basis of 600 hampers per carload.

12b. ABOUT 2,112 CARS OF APPLES IN NORTHWEST ON MAY 1

The following information was included in a letter of May 8 from Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office:-

"Below is a record of the storage holdings of apples in the Northwest, as of May 1:-

Yakima	1,244 cars
Wenatchee	773½ "
Milton-Freewater	79 "
Spokane	16 "

"I have not as yet received the report of Hood River storage holdings."

13b. RECENT SUMMARIES OF MARKETING SEASONS

Four additional summaries of field deals have been issued this week:
"Marketing the Georgia Peach Crop, 1930 Season," by R. H. Shoemaker.
"Marketing Mississippi Vegetables, 1930 Season," by H. E. Rutland.
"Marketing Mississippi Tomatoes, 1930 Season," by H. E. Rutland.
"Marketing Imperial Valley Cantaloupes, 1930 Season," by R. H. Lamb and L. T. Kirby.

14b. SOME UNUSUAL UNLOAD REPORTS

The Spokane office has published a 14-paged mimeographed summary on "Unloads of Northwestern Fruits and Vegetables in 66 Important Cities." The front page carries an outline map of the United States, and in each of 31 States is shown the number of cars of fruits and vegetables from the Northwest which were unloaded in large markets of that State during 1930. The tabulation omits 17 States, for which figures were not available. Canada also is omitted, for the same reason.

The summary includes separate tables on 35 different products. For each product, origins are shown under each of the four States, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Unloads are shown for each of 66 cities or for as many cities as received the particular product from the Northwest. A comparison is made also of the carlot shipments from the Northwest in 1930. Exports of apples, pears, etc. are shown for the ports of Seattle and Portland. The entire summary is very interesting and valuable.

New York City office has published a detailed summary of the "Daily Arrivals and Unloads of Cantaloupes and Various Other Types of Melons on the New York Market during 1930." Comparative figures are given for 1929. Tabulations are first given on the basis of days, the weather being shown for each day and the number of cars arrived, unloaded, on track or diverted; also the carlot shipments from all sections for that day. A recapitulation of unloads is given by States or countries of origin for each day. Statistics on acreage also are presented.

15b. ADDITION TO THE CODE (Effective May 22, 1931)

On the "JI-JO-JU" page of the code, please make the following addition:-

JUX - wrapped

16b. INTERESTING REPORT ON IMPERIAL VALLEY CANTALOUPES

On May 12, A. E. Prugh wrote the following letter from the office at Brawley, Calif.:-

"The first car of cantaloupes went out of the Valley on April 18,-the earliest date in the history of production here,- and yet there was not a 100-car day until May 11. Of course, the first few cars came from a 40-acre field that had been forced along, but the increase has not been as rapid as in previous years. One reason for this has been the cool nights and also the light crown set on the brushed acreage. Early quality is probably the best ever shipped. The vines are thrifty, foliage heavy, and there are only a few traces of mildew.

"Shippers are already discouraged with the situation. For instance: The Chicago market on Monday reported only two cars arriving, with a slow demand and $1 per standard crate cheaper than on Saturday. Temperature of 48° and raining at 8 o'clock is not favorable weather for cantaloupe marketing. Shippers are also faced with a possible strike of melon-packers and have a meeting arranged with a committee of the union to arbitrate the question. At a meeting Monday night, a clearing house was also considered, such as was used during the 1929 deal. A close inspection for quality and sugar content was also arranged with the Agricultural Commissioner. The Federal-State inspection office has not been opened in the Valley this season.

"The f.o.b. market dropped sharply, as shipments increased. There has been only a limited buying demand from the East. I know of one shipper who sold an express car for $5 f.o.b. and loaded half a car with another shipper for Philadelphia. This car sold in Philadelphia for $6, and the express rate is about $2.65 per crate. The rapid decline in prices cut down the number of express cars, with only 92 out by the 11th and a probable total of less than 100, compared with 169 last year.

"The standard-45 crate is the basis of trading, and on the present market jumbo 45's bring 25¢ premium, with jumbo 36's the same as standard 45's, and ponys 75% of the standard-45 price and flats 40%.

"Not many cars of 'choice' or ripes for western shipment have moved so far, as most of these melons have been trucked to Los Angeles. Yesterday a few cars of hard ripes for the Northwest sold for 75¢ premium over the 'fancy' or those for eastern shipment.

"The peak movement came last year on May 22 with 465 cars, which was very early. This season there will probably be an early peak of 250 to 300 cars about May 25 and then another heavier one from June 25to July 1. There may be a period of light movement from June 1 to 12, between the harvesting of the covered and the uncovered acreage, as the rain in February held up normal planting for nearly three weeks.

"The earliest Honey Dews on record moved last week. About 30 flat crates went to New York in a mixed car.

"About 15 cars of carrots daily continue to move from the Valley. The demand is slow and track holdings in 11 large markets jumped from 112 cars on the 5th to 182 on the 11th.

"Three or four cars of tomatoes are now moving, mostly to Seattle, Portland, Spokane and Salt Lake City. I noticed one car billed to Hutchinson, Kansas, and two or three to El Paso for diversion. The Los Angeles market weakened sharply on May 11, under heavy truck receipts."

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas	Apples	Sept. 3	May 23
		H. S. Duncan	Carrots	Sept. 3	May 23
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 23
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	F. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	May 29
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage*	Jan. 5	May 8*
			Spinach*	Jan. 5	Mar. 7*
			Beets*	Jan. 5	Apr. 30*
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 16
			Beans	Mar. 20	May 16
			Potatoes	Mar. 30	May 16
			Onions	Apr. 6	May 16
			Tomatoes	Apr. 23	May 29
HAMMOND, LA., P. O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 23
LAREDO, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	801	W. D. Googe	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 14	May 23
BRADENTON, FLA.** Pier Bldg.	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	May 29
BELLE GLADE, FLA.** Glades Hotel	937	B. E. Surry	Beans	Apr. 20	May 29
			Peppers	Apr. 20	May 23
			Tomatoes	Apr. 20	May 29
CHADBOURN, N.C.** Mercer Bldg.	805	A. M. McDowell	Stbr.	May 1	May 23
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	Jul. 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS.	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs.	May 5	June 6
			Tomatoes	June 1	June 27
MOBILE, ALA.**	924	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	May 11	June 13
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.**	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.	May 21	June 13
			Potatoes	June 15	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 6	Jul. 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MOBETT, MO.**	857	W. G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 22	June 6
The following stations closed on dates indicated:					
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	L. C. Tate	Potatoes	Sep. 15	May 9
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P. O. Bldg	895	R. E. Keller	Apples	Oct. 24	Nov. 7
			Onions	Oct. 24	Apr. 21
			Potatoes	Oct. 24	May 13
HASTINGS, FLA.** Power & Light Bldg.	851	B. E. Surry	Potatoes	Apr. 8	May 15

** State cooperating. * Reports discontinued.

R. E. Keller in St. Louis office. W. F. Cox in San Francisco.

V. H. Nicholson en route to Pocomoke City, Md.

B. E. Surry transferred to Belle Glade, Fla.

L. C. Tate assigned to Minneapolis office.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. GOOD RECORDS BEING MADE IN OREGON

With a letter of May 4, W. L. Close, Supervisor of shipping-point inspection work in the State of Oregon, submitted a number of interesting statistical tables.

The first table gives a comparison of inspections with total carlot shipments for the State. During the 1929-30 season, about 13,117 cars of 23 products were shipped and 8,444 cars were certified, which is 64% of the shipments. From July 1 to December 31, 1930, about 14,118 cars were forwarded and 10,614 were inspected, which is 75% of the shipments, thus showing a great increase over the previous period.

A second table shows the percentages of various crops inspected during each of the last five seasons. The figures vary greatly between the several seasons, but taking 18 products together the average has shown a continuous progression. The total percentage of these crops certified for the 1926-27 season was 55%; in 1927-28 about 57%; in 1928-29, around 63%; in 1929-30 about 64%, and so far during the 1930-31 season 75%.

The third table gives a comparison of shipments and certifications for the five leading products during each of the last five seasons and a five-year average for each product. The totals are copied below:-

Total Shipment and Inspection Records for 5 Leading Products

	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31*	Average
Shipments:-	13,856	9,159	14,491	9,888	12,452	11,969
Certifications:	9,030	6,779	9,969	7,990	10,439	8,851

Five-Year Average Figures for Leading Products

	Shipments	Certifications
Apples	4,738	3,593
Pears	3,758	2,905
Broccoli-Caulif.	584	392
Prunes	1,077	729
Potatoes	1,839	1,326
	11,969	8,851

* July to December inclusive.

Oregon has a compulsory inspection law for potatoes, and naturally this product shows the highest percentage of shipments inspected. During the 1929-30 season, 60% of the potatoes inspected graded U.S. No. 1 or better. But during the 1930-31 season to date, this figure has increased to 72%.

2c. CROP CONDITIONS FAVORABLE IN UTAH

L. S. Fenn sent the following report from Salt Lake city on May 9:-

"Ideal growing weather, with occasional light showers, has prevaildd since the severe windstorms on April 22, and most of the damaged acreage has been replanted. The frequent showers have brought the replanted fields of onions, peas, and sugar-beets along fast, and conditions now look favorable for maturing these crops but they will be slightly later than usual. The onion acreage will be only slightly reduced, but poor stands in some fields not replanted will reduce the production."

3c. INTERESTING REPORT ON LOUISVILLE FARMERS MARKET

T. C. Curry sent the following information in a letter of April 24 from the Louisville office:-

"In checking-up on licenses, I made a trip to the Farmers Market here today, which brought out some very interesting facts for me, and in which I thought you might be interested:

"This market in Louisville is owned by a number of nearby farmers and truck-gardeners, and comprises at least one acre of land located in the heart of the produce district. They operate under the name of 'Gardeners and Farmers Market Company.' Stands are rented only to growers of farm products. Non-stock holders living within a radius of 30 miles of Louisville in Kentucky and those from Floyd and Clark counties in Indiana pay so much per day for their stands, depending on the size of the vehicle. The minimum charge is 50¢ and the maximum $1.50. Growers outside of this territory, in addition to paying a $60-per-year city license, pay on the following scale:

10-lb. baskets	10¢ each
15-lb. baskets	15¢ each
Bushel baskets	25¢ each
Berries, etc.	25¢ per crate

"This city license is imposed by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund and has just recently been put into effect. The idea is to keep the out-of-State trucks out of Louisville, thereby protecting local dealers and farmers. The President of this Company informed me that Cincinnati had also recently put a penalty of this kind into effect.

"This market appears to be a huge success here and it seems to me that other cities might do well to try the plan."

4c. INSPECTIONS IN FLORIDA DURING LAST HALF OF APRIL

The following is a summary of a report from O. G. Strauss, Supervising Inspector for Florida:-

	FRUITS				
	Grapefruit	Oranges	Tangerines	Mixed	Total
Fruit inspections Apr.16-30:	6	2	-	2	10
" " to Apr. 15:	492	646	40	338	1516
" " through Apr.30:	498	648	40	340	1526

	VEGETABLES											
	Beets	Cab-bage	Car-rots	Cel-ery	Cukes	Letc.	Pep-pers	Pota-toes	Stbr.	Toma-toes	Mxd.	Total
Apr. 16-30:	-	-	-	322	4	-	-	170	-	-	1	497
to Apr. 15:	1	28	8	3710	15	22	61	14	179	40	30	4108
thru Apr.30:	1	28	8	4031*	19	22	61	184	179	40	31	4604*

Total fruit and vegetable inspections Apr. 16-30:- 507

Season totals through April 30:

Year:-	1931	1930	1929	1928
Cars:-	6130	4812	6197	3346

* 1 car celery deducted by certificate being voided.

5c. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYMENT OF INSPECTION FEES

YOUR attention is again called to the following instructions:-

"The certificate is issued to the party making the application, whether this party be shipper, receiver, broker or carrier. In case a broker requests an inspection in the name of a shipper or receiver, whom he represents, a copy of the telegram or letter authorizing him to secure Federal inspection must be filed with the office of inspection as confirmation of the application. In case the broker applies for the inspection in his own name, the certificate will be made out to him and the fees for inspection will be charged to him. The Inspection Service will not go into any argument with the person making the application for an inspection as to responsibility for the fees. The applicant MUST pay the fees and make whatever settlement he desires with other financially-interested parties."

6c. HEAVY CITRUS INSPECTIONS AT JACKSONVILLE

In a letter of May 4 from Jacksonville, R. H. vonGlahn gave the following report on certifications of grapefruit for export markets:

"Last week I completed the inspection of a cargo of 37 cars of grapefruit exported on the S.S. Delilian, which brought the total inspections for the month of April in Jacksonville to 109 cars, compared with 41 for the same month last year. On inquiring of the Strachan Shipping Company, concerning their next shipment for export, they advise that the S.S. Floridian will leave Jacksonville somewhere between the 20th and the 25th of May and they expect to have a part cargo of fruit."

Commenting on this recent shipment to Liverpool, an item in the "Times-Union" calls attention to the fact that exports of Florida grapefruit this season have been three times as great as ever before. The Florida Citrus Exchange alone has shipped about 175 carloads to foreign markets. Prices received have been as much as, if not more than, prices for similar fruit in domestic markets. Export receivers have also been prevailed upon to take one-third of their supplies in second-grade fruit, which is an exceptional experience in this trade.

7c. ALABAMA INSPECTION PROSPECTS

In a letter of May 5, J. A. Marks, Supervising Inspector, advised that strawberry inspections are being made in practically all shipping sections of Alabama. Until May 4, quality of the stock was better than for several years. Heavy rains, however, have recently caused considerable decay in the berries and many loads show a sandy condition. Originally, Mr. Marks thought there would be 2,000 cars of potatoes for inspection, but this figure is now doubtful. The inspection work throughout the State is widely scattered, but Mr. Marks expects to have his headquarters at Foley during the next few weeks.

WATERMELON production this season in Florida is expected to amount to 8,370,000 melons, compared with 10,310,000 last year. Imperial Valley of California has an estimated crop of 6,630,000 melons, as against some 6,070,000 during the 1930 season.

8c. MATERIAL BEING SENT TO INSPECTORS

Under separate cover, each inspector will receive a copy of the revised United States Standards for Fresh Plums and Prunes.

All inspectors in terminal markets will also receive a copy of the revised Inspection Circular on Spinach.

Short grade forms for Fresh Faba (Fava) Beans are also being mailed within the next few days to all inspectors.

The next two items were taken from California Inspectors' Notes, May 1:-

9c. COAST LETTUCE SHIPMENTS HEAVY

Rains the early part of the week slowed up shipments of lettuce in the Salinas district for one or two days but since then have increased rapidly and are now going strong. At present 17 men are working out of the Salinas office and 9 men out of the Watsonville office. The solidity of the lettuce has improved, but tipburn is becoming more prevalent every day.

10c. SACRAMENTO LETTUCE PRACTICALLY FINISHED

The lettuce inspections in the Sacramento district are practically finished. The usual spring quality has prevailed this season, with tipburn and poor solidity the principal defects.

The next three items are from California Inspectors' Notes, dated May 8:-

11c. SHAFTER POTATOES STARTING

Although growers agreed not to start potato shipments until May 11, movement started early this week. A considerably larger crop than formerly is expected, due to the increased acreage in this district.

12c. HOT WEATHER ALONG COAST

Very hot weather in the Salinas district today was reported by Mr. Hannaford. This is expected to lower the quality of lettuce to such an extent that inspections will be decreased materially.

13c. APRIL SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Including 51 shipside inspections in San Francisco and 2 at Los Angeles, a total of 3,530 inspections was made in California during April. The leading districts were:- Salinas 718, San Jose-Hayward 609, Santa Maria-Guadalupe 533, Los Angeles 491, Watsonville 437, and Sacramento 341 inspections.

EARLY POTATOES in eight southern States are expected to total about 15,831,000 bushels, or one-fifth more than last spring. Florida, with 3,140,000 bushels, had about one-fourth more potatoes than in 1930. Large crops are expected in Louisiana, Alabama, South Carolina and the Sugarland district of Texas.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, P. O. Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Aug. 27	May 23
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, Hammond, La.	Strawberries	Apr. 1	May 23
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	June 1
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, Foley Hotel, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	June 15
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Van Buren, Ark.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 27 May 10	May 23 July 1
SOUTH CAROLINA:	G. R. Warren, Chamber of Commerce, Charleston, S.C.	Potatoes	May 18	May 30
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Strawberries	May 4	May 23

-- REPORTS on Maine potatoes can be obtained from Vernon Palmer, Inspector, at Caribou, Maine.

14c. INSPECTORS' TRAINING-CLASS IN CHICAGO

Beginning next Monday, May 18, and continuing for about six weeks, a class of eight men will be trained in inspection work in Chicago:-

Robert B. Emery, a new Federal appointee.
Grover A. Kurtz, a new Federal appointee.
Charles L. Packard, a cooperative appointee in Penna.
Kenneth R. Slamp, a cooperative appointee in Penna.
L. C. Tate, of the Minneapolis office.
M. M. Thomas, of the St. Louis office.
R. C. Hastings, of the State Seed Commissioner's Office, Fargo, N.D.
T. M. Patterson, of the Mississippi Extension Service, at Jackson.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING APRIL, 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined: for Lack of Time	Total Fees
Atlanta	64	59	1	0	$ 268.48
Baltimore	57	65	0	2	216.00
Birmingham	12	-	2	0	42.50
Boston	302	520	159	0	1,009.07
Buffalo	26	28	5	0	110.90
Chicago	240	213	4	0	972.39
Cincinnati	55	60	4	0	264.56
Cleveland	43	96	2	0	178.50
Columbus	29	15	0	0	127.44
Dallas	22	-	2	0	102.05
Denver	36	42	1	0	137.00
Des Moines	14	-	0	0	53.50
Detroit	89	147	0	0	354.48
Fort Worth	8	18	0	0	33.00
Harrisburg	4	1	2	0	29.34
Houston	20	23	0	0	98.06
Indianapolis	24	40	1	0	98.00
Jacksonville	109	41	10	0	431.50
Kansas City	73	68	26	3	277.20
Los Angeles	8	9	0	0	25.00
Louisville	6	-	0	0	21.00
Memphis	41	43	34	0	175.00
Milwaukee	134	98	60	0	450.05
Minneapolis	117	27	0	3	533.08
Newark	77	85	32	0	267.50
New Haven	59	79	3	0	301.80
New Orleans	107	98	19	0	227.00
New York	1,087	729	486	0	3,307.79
Norfolk	9	10	0	0	43.00
Omaha	58	50	36	0	191.20
Philadelphia	254	312	1	0	712.40
Pittsburgh	86	211	1	0	393.62
Portland	10	17	0	0	47.00
Providence	29	28	6	0	113.82
Rochester	21	4	0	0	117.72
Sacramento	0	1	0	0	.00
St. Louis	169	161	105	0	524.23
Salt Lake City	10	3	0	0	34.00
San Francisco	12	14	1	0	44.52
Seattle	3	3	1	0	12.00
Springfield	22	48	8	0	92.40
Toledo	18	15	0	0	70.00
Trenton	0	4	0	0	.00
Tulsa	12	-	0	0	57.40
Washington	53	46	6	2	232.50
Wilkes-Barre	26	26	16	1	82.70
TOTAL	3,655	3,557	1,034	11	$12,880.70

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:- Total 1,759: 390 for Pennsylvania, 17 B.&O., 1,169 Nickel Plate, 7 Erie, 42 Kroger's, 39 Federal Cold Storage.

15c. MINNESOTA ENACTS LAW REQUIRING POTATO LABELING

An Act to regulate the tagging, labeling or branding, and sale of potatoes in closed packages, enacted by the Minnesota State Legislature, will become effective September 1, 1931. The Commissioner of Agriculture will administer the law.

The law requires that potatoes grown in Minnesota, when packed for carload shipments or offered for sale by persons other than the growers or producers thereof in carload lots, and potatoes, when packed for truck-load shipments or offered for sale in Minnesota in truck-load lots, other than by the producer, shall be tagged, labeled, or branded as follows:

"U.S. No. 1, Minnesota Commercial Grade, U.S. No. 2, Unclassified, and Minnesota Certified Seed. The U.S. Grades shall conform in all respects to the requirements laid down by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Minnesota Commercial Grade shall conform in all respects to the U.S. No. 1 grade but, in order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, a tolerance of defect of four per cent, in weight, additional on No. 1 Grade may be allowed for this Grade, but not to exceed one per cent shall be allowed for potatoes affected by soft rot. The Unclassified shall consist of all potatoes not meeting the requirements of the foregoing grades, and shall be sold either as such, or on a certificate of inspection duly made by an authorized inspector of the State Department of Agriculture."

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman and Mr. Spilman have returned from Philadelphia, where they attended the first public hearing under the P.A.C. Act. The case required two days' time instead of only one day, and it may be several weeks before the Secretary renders a decision in the case. Both sides were given the privilege of filing briefs. Mr. Spilman also spent Thursday in Philadelphia, investigating other cases under the P.A.C. Act.

J. Wm. Park has returned to his desk in Mr. Pailthorp's project, after having assisted in the Farmers' Seed Loan Office for three months. He says that the Washington district office granted drought-relief loans to farmers in the amount of about $8,500,000. All of the Federal Seed Loan offices together distributed about $44,000,000 to some 350,000 farmers, making the average loan approximately $130.

Mr. Sherman expects to go to Baltimore next Monday, May 18, for a meeting of representatives of the Tri-State Packers' Association, the Pennsylvania Canners Association, and Baltimore dealers in canned goods, which will be held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. He will talk on the subject: "Official Grading of Canned Foods at Shipping Point." Paul M. Williams will accompany him on this trip.

Wm. E. Leigh, of Mr. Pailthorp's project, has gone on 10 days' annual leave to points in southern Virginia.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

R. L. Spangler has returned from his standardization investigations in the strawberry producing districts of Louisiana. He reports a very good crop of berries there this year, and was informed that the Louisiana cold-pack would probably amount to 6,000 - 10,000 barrels.

A. E. Mercker, who has been in the Hastings district of Florida since the opening of the potato season, returned to Washington this week. As Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, he plans to go to Charleston, S.C., on Sunday and remain there until June 3, after which he will be located at Washington, N.C., for about three weeks.

Brice Edwards has been working recently at the offices of the Regulatory Branch in the Earle Bldg., helping to devise a plan for the licensing of large haulers of fruits and vegetables by motor-truck.

Robert Bier left for Norfolk on Wednesday evening. He spent Thursday in Norfolk, Va., and is at various points on the Eastern Shore today, lining up the season's shipping-point inspection work in that territory. He was accompanied by J. T. Henley, of the Richmond office.

Grover A. Kurtz, of Indiana, has been appointed as an Assistant Marketing Specialist, and reports in Chicago next Monday as a member of the inspectors' training class. Mr. Kurtz attended the Normal School at Kalamazoo, Mich., and later received the B.S. degree from Michigan State College. He has had some experience in teaching, and was employed for a while by the Olds Motor Works at Lansing, Mich. He worked during one summer with the Bureau of Entomology in corn-borer control investigations. During recent years Mr. Kurtz has been in the employ of the Merchants Despatch, at Rochester, N.Y., as a perishable-freight inspector, and lately he has been stationed at Muncie, Ind.

Robert B. Emery, of California, has also been appointed as an Assistant Marketing Specialist, and will join the inspectors' training class in Chicago next Monday. He received his public school education at Davis, Calif., and attended the Agricultural College during 1922 and 1923. From 1924 to the present time, Mr. Emery has been employed by the California State Department of Agriculture in various capacities, as an horticultural inspector, helping to enforce the standardization laws, and as a shipping-point inspector. He has supervised a number of important inspection deals in California.

Kenneth R. Slamp and Charles L. Packard, whose appointments as co-operative employees in Pennsylvania were announced last week, will be members of the inspectors' training class in Chicago, beginning on Monday.

Before actively taking up his new duties in Minneapolis, L. C. Tate will spend the next six weeks in Chicago, where he also will be a member of the training class for inspection work. Prior to leaving Idaho Falls a week ago, Mr. Tate was the recipient of a traveling-bag from local potato dealers, as an evidence of their appreciation of his service.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

M. M. Thomas, of the St. Louis market-news office, will go to Chicago next Monday, to take training in inspection work. R. E. Keller, who closed the Grand Rapids field station this week, will substitute temporarily for Mr. Thomas in St. Louis.

B. E. Surry has closed the Hastings field station and has gone to Belle Glade, Fla., where he will take over the work which was being handled by V. H. Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson is proceeding to Pocomoke City, Md., and will open the news service at that point about May 21.

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, made a two-day trip last Friday and Saturday to points in the lower Yakima Valley of Washington and to the Walla Walla district, making contracts with growers and shippers of early vegetables and potatoes.

Recent changes in temporary headquarters of shipping-point inspection work include the moving of G. R. Warren from the strawberry deal in North Carolina to the potato inspection work around Charleston, S.C. J. A. Marks now has headquarters at Foley, Ala., and should be addressed at that point. H. T. Longino advises that all requests for reports on Texas certificates should now be addressed to him in care of the Chamber of Commerce at San Antonio. The work on Mexican tomatoes at Nogales, Arizona, has been completed.

TWO MORE CHANGES should be made immediately on all copies of the revised Inspectors' Address List, dated April 20:- The residence telephone number of S. H. Fountain, at Vallejo, Calif., should be 1660 instead of 1715-J. D. M. James, of the Harrisburg office, no longer resides at New Cumberland, Pa., but his residence address now is 1808 High St., Camp Hill, Pa.

DENVER OFFICE of the Market News Service moved last Wednesday to Rooms 229-231 in the United States Customs House, at 721 - 19th Street. Please make note of this change on all copies of the Market Station Address List, and also change the office phone number to Keystone 4151, Ext. 362. Mr. Morris' residence telephone number also has been changed to Pearl 2305, which change should be noted on the address list.

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Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. SECRETARY REVOKES LICENSE UNDER P.A.C. ACT

Under date of May 7, the Secretary of Agriculture issued his findings of fact, conclusions, and order in the case of the Secretary of Agriculture vs. Burton and Briel, Inc., of Richmond, Virginia, licensees under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

The conclusions of the Secretary were to the effect that the respondent, acting as commission merchants, had failed to account to a shipper in Georgia for $35 collected on behalf of the shipper as a railroad claim.

That in another case the respondent had failed, neglected and refused truly and promptly to account to a shipper in New York in connection with a carload of Wolf River apples. That in another case the respondent had failed and refused to remit and pay to a shipper in Florida the sum of $3,510.36 as net proceeds in connection with the sale by the respondent of seven carloads of oranges, both these failures to pay being in violation of Section 2 of the Act.

That the respondent had failed and neglected to keep such accounts, books, records, and memoranda respecting the sales of certain onions made for and on behalf of certain shippers in Massachusetts as is required by Section 9 of this Act.

That the violations of the Act found to have occurred in these cases were flagrant and repeated within the meaning of Section 8 of the Act.

The Secretary therefore ordered that the license (No. 2254) issued to Burton and Briel, Inc., under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act of 1930 be revoked, effective 10 days after the receipt by the respondent of a copy of the order transmitted by registered mail.

2a. A RECENT CASE UNDER THE PRODUCE AGENCY ACT

In the United States District Court, Raleigh, N.C., on May 11, R. O. Caveness of the Caveness Produce Co., formerly in business in Raleigh, pleaded guilty of a violation of the Produce Agency Act. Judgment was suspended until fall, in order to give the defendant an opportunity to mitigate the sentence by making settlement with the complainant. The case involved failure to account for 745 pounds of pecans and 522 crates of cantaloupes. The total amount of money involved was $361.74.

3a. A HEARING UNDER THE P.A.C. ACT

Another public hearing is taking place today at Huntington, W. Va., under the P.A.C. Act. C. P. Dorr and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan (stenographer) have gone from the Solicitor's Office to handle this case, which involves a complaint by Baker Brothers, of Woodside, Del., against the West Virginia Brokerage Company regarding the sale of six cars of apples.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. LOW PRICES FOR ALABAMA POTATOES

W. D. Hull sent the following report from Mobile, Ala., in a letter of May 18:-

"Since the opening of the shipping season for Alabama potatoes, demand has been better than many of the operators expected. However, willingness on the part of the growers and smaller shippers to sell made it impossible to maintain prices. Beginning with Monday, May 11, the local market declined 10¢-15¢ per day on 100-pound sacks of U.S. No. 1 Bliss Triumphs. The depth of the present depression was reached on Friday, May 15, when Baldwin County shippers sold rather freely at $1-$1.10 per sack in carlots f.o.b. usual terms. Many offers of 90¢ were refused. These low prices netted the growers about 60¢-65¢ per sack.

"As the crop is becoming more mature, the quality of the stock is improving, and some operators think that prices will improve as the season advances. A successful attempt was made last Tuesday to limit loadings and shipments, in hopes of improving the prices and creating a better demand. Shipments on Monday were 149 cars and movement dropped to 62 cars on Tuesday. However, the expected price improvement did not materialize."

2b. UNFAVORABLE MARKET FOR TEXAS ONIONS

R. G. Risser sent the following report from Crystal City, Texas, on May 14:-

"After making a late and draggy start, the movement of onions from the Winter Garden district of Texas got well under way the second week in May. Up to the 14th, shipments from this section were about 1,000 cars behind last year, which was not an early season. In spite of the reduced crop, daily loadings at this time are almost as heavy as last year. But the Coastal Bend section is also contributing a big crop to the heavy current movement, which is a serious competitive factor not encountered a year ago.

"The marketing situation is extremely unfavorable, and condition of the onions has been affected by the long continued dampness which lasted until May 6. The last rain was followed by moderate weather, which retarded the development of decay somewhat, but with the coming of warmer days and more intense sunshine the spread of decay has been accelerated. The crop is being moved under very difficult circumstances. There is practically no cash buying and very little business is being done on wire orders. Most cars are being rolled unsold, and hopes of selling in transit are not at all bright. Some of the terminal markets are already complaining of the condition of the stock and more serious complaints may be expected within the next week. Demand for onions has been very limited, and 'the most disastrous season on record' is probably the most accurate description which it will receive when it is all over."

3b. SPECIAL REPORT ON FRUIT PROSPECTS

The Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates has published, under date of May 20, an excellent 18-paged mimeogrpahed report on "Fruit Prospects on May 1." It is very comprehensive and contains a lot of valuable information. Copies can be had through Mr. Paul Koenig, in Crop Estimates.

4b. NORTH CAROLINA STRAWBERRIES ABOUT FINISHED

A. M. McDowell sent the following report from Chadbourn, N.C., on May 18:- He closed the Chadbourn office on Thursday and returned to Atlanta:-

"After declining last Monday, auction prices of berries advanced through most of the remainder of the week, the advance amounting to nearly $2 per crate at Chadbourn and about 50¢ at Wallace. A rain in the Wallace section which lasted nearly all of last Sunday was detrimental to the quality of the berries, and prices received by growers for Missionarys have been from $1 to $2 lower than local growers have been receiving for Klondikes. The usual difference is from about 50¢ to $1 per crate.

"Size in both sections has gradually been getting smaller, quite a number of loads failing to grade U.S. No. 1 because of undersized berries. Soft berries have also caused other loads to fail to grade.

"Due to the fact that most plants did not set much late fruit, it is expected that the season will end a little more abruptly than usual. Today haulings were rather heavy but the last of the week will probably see very little fruit left.

"Distribution has been much as in previous years, with about 80% of the carlot shipments going to the three cities of New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and practically all of the remainder moving to other markets in the New England and Middle Atlantic States. Distribution by trucks is largely to the cities nearer by. Truck shipments originate mostly in the Wallace-Rose Hill district. and account for about 35% to 40% of the total movement from the State."

5b. IMPORTANT NEWS ON MANATEE TOMATOES

The following information was received in a letter of May 18 from R. M. Peterson, at Bradenton, Fla.:-

"Shipments of Manatee tomatoes last week exceeded all expectations, when nearly 175 cars moved. The heavily increased haulings the first of the week resulted apparently from a desire to market as much stock as possible before the prices got too low. Many tomatoes were picked too early and this poor quality, together with the rapidly increasing shipments, forced the market down rapidly. Toward the end of the week buying was almost at a standstill. Some shippers are quite optimistic and feel that the market will be much firmer before the end of this week, but the growers are mostly disheartened and believe that this season's crop will be very unprofitable. The production costs have been unusually heavy because of the unseasonable weather, but it was generally felt that market conditions would be good because of poor production in competing sections, and every effort was made to produce a good crop in spite of the handicaps. The Manatee tomatoes, however, have been greatly delayed, even more so than was anticipated, and the early shipments, which were confidently expected to bring good money, hit a bad slump in the market. The quality of the tomatoes has improved greatly and is now generally good except for puffiness, which is showing up in most fields. The puffiness is not readily apparent because the tomatoes are mostly firm and well-shaped and the stock presents a generally good appearance. The shipments this week, as well as for the balance of the season, will depend largely upon market conditions. Unless the demand increases, shipments may be lighter than last week, but with a firm market and hot weather they may reach 300 cars.

"Recent rains and cool weather have revived the Wauchula cucumber crop, extending the shipping season a week or more longer than was previously expected. The movement last week, approximately 50 cars, was nearly twice as heavy as predicted. In fact, haulings have increased slightly instead of decreased. The balance of the week should show somewhat lighter movement, but the total will be nearly as heavy as that of last week. Sumter County is practically through shipping cucumbers but harvesting has started around Gainesville and Williston, with rather heavy shipments expected from that section this week."

6b. RIO GRANDE VALLEY VEGETABLE SEASON NEARING AN END

The following report came from C. D. Schoolcraft, at Brownsville, Texas, under date of May 17:-

"Tomatoes are the major factor just now in the Valley vegetable deal and, in fact, are the only commodity moving in volume. Demand during the week has been only moderate. Cash buyers were rather reluctant to buy much during the fist part of the week. However, considerable improvement was noted Saturday, both on the part of cash buyers and in outside demand. To date, sizes have been rather small, with around 50% of the load in most cars sizing 6X7 and the balance 6X6 and larger. Practically no 7X7 are being loaded; in fact most shippers are turning this size back to the growers. Movement next week will likely average over 100 cars a day, with shipments tapering off the last week in May. There will be some movement until about June 10, weather and markets permitting.

"Corn movement continued very light, averaging less than 10 cars a day, compared with more than 50 during the same period a year ago. A considerable increase in movement can be expected next week. Demand has been fairly good for the few cars shipped.

"The spring potato-crop movement lacks only 30 cars of reaching the 1,500-car mark. A month ago, no one dreamed that this volume would move. In fact, at the beginning of the season most estimates ran around 1,000 cars or less. There has been no f.o.b. market for the past 10 days, practically everything having been rolled for delivered sales. Movement from the Sugarland-Eagle Lake-Wharton section is now becoming active.

"Movement of all other commodities is practically ended. It will be only a matter of a few weeks until this deal will be a closed book and will likely go down into history as one of the poorest, from the financial standpoint, of any of the recent deals in this part of the country."

7b. HOT WIND DAMAGES CALIFORNIA FRUIT

C. J. Hansen, of the San Francisco office, wired as follows on May 20:-

"Hot wind, which blew for almost 24 hours over fruit sections of northern part of State, May 18, is reported to have done considerable damage to cherries and early plums, with some wind-fall to pears. Cherries now arriving on local market show much bruising and scald and are deteriorating fast, which will impair keeping-quality for eastern shipment. Too early yet to make any definite estimate of damage, but will advise later if can secure information." - On May 21 Mr. Hansen advised that reports were contradictory and that no definite estimate of damage could yet be made.

8b. A NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR MARKET REPORTS

A new arrangement for showing market information on the Laredo onion report has been adopted by W. D. Googe. This appears to be quite effective, and has resulted in much favorable comment. Sample copies of the rearranged reports are being mailed to all market-news men with this D.L. Concerning the change, Mr. Googe has written as follows:-

"On May 4, the daily mimeographed bulletin issued by this office took on a new form for showing the jobbing markets. As you have no doubt heard many times, the conventional form of writing up these market reports contains much valuable information in detail, but the style of running it into a paragraph makes it difficult for a busy man to get a good picture of the situation, even after he has read it. The nature of the onion market reports makes it fairly easy to set up a report in tabular form, as on the enclosed copy, which is obviously much easier to understand than the old form. It takes some time to tabulate the information in this manner, but after it has been copied on a rough draft sheet it takes less time to get it on the stencil. In all, it seems to require about 10 minutes longer to put it out in this form than to copy it direct to the stencil from telegrams. Buyers and shippers here have commented very favorably upon the improvement, and some have expressed curiosity as to why no one had ever made the reports in this manner before."

9b. SWEET-CORN CONTAINERS

In the market quotations on sweet corn, there has recently been some confusion regarding size or type of containers. There are three crates commonly used in the southeastern States, with inside measurements as follows:

A - 13 3/8 x 11 x 22 -- 1½-bushel crate.
B - 14 x 11 x 22 -- commonly known as pepper or eggplant crate and having a volume of about 1 3/5 bushels.
C - 12 x 12 x 22 -- standard cantaloupe crate of the southeastern sections, with a volume of slightly less than 1½ bushels.

The 1½-bushel crate - "A" above - is being adopted quite extensively in the southeastern States to replace "B." Wherever this new container appears on the markets, it is requested that it be quoted as a 1½-bushel crate (a code term for which will be added to the revision of the "WA" code page). It will be difficult for market men to distinguish between "A" and "B" and both may therefore be quoted as "1½-bushel crates."

Crate "C" should be quoted as "standard cantaloupe crate," for which a code term will also be added.

10b. HEAVY CROP OF IMPERIAL CANTALOUPES

According to a recent report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, the Imperial Valley this year expects a crop of slightly over 9,000,000 crates of cantaloupes and similar melons, which probably will be the largest crop on record. Last year's harvested production amounted to 5,752,000 crates, although it was at first forecast at more than 8,000,000.

11b. COTTON FARMING METHODS APPLIED TO ONIONS IN TEXAS

A very interesting letter regarding the large-scale farming operations in the Corpus Christi section of Texas came from W. D. Googe, at Laredo, under date of May 17:-

"After weeks of delay, caused by unfavorable weather, the Texas onion deal got under way last week and a large portion of this season's crop has been marketed. The Raymondville and Laredo sections have practically finished; the Winter Garden and Coastal Bend sections have passed their peaks, and the crop of some 300 cars from Eagle Pass has begun to move. In all, it is estimated that about 1,000 cars remain to be shipped from southeastern Texas this year. The total movement will probably not equal 4,500 cars.

New low prices for the season were reached during the week. Yellow Bermudas in 50-pound bags sold mostly at 55¢-60¢ f.o.b. cash track and around 65¢ on wire orders. Certified U.S. No. 1 stock generally brought 5¢-10¢ premium over these prices, which were for the U.S. Commercial grade. Crystal Wax onions ranged 90¢-$1 cash, and $1.10-$1.25 on the wire. At the lower prices, and with the end of the season in sight, trading became very active the latter part of the week. Most of the buying has been in the Corpus Christi section, where the best quality onions are found at this time. Large blocks have been bought by operators, doubtless mostly for speculation, as the terminal markets continue generally very dull.

"The newly-developed section near Corpus Christi has held the attention of shippers during the past week. On account of the heavy soils and the frequent rains which they have in that section, many were skeptical as to the outcome of that deal. Fortune has favored them this year with good weather for growing and harvesting. Large-scale farming operations, common among cotton planters in that territory, have been applied to the growing of onions, which were planted with seed direct to the fields in three-foot cotton rows. Cotton planters were used in putting the seed out; tractors and other modern machines were used in cultivation, and one farmer is reported to have harvested, graded, sacked, and loaded into the cars a 2,500-acre crop in four days. Around 500 laborers were employed.

"With the cleaning up of this Coastal Bend section and that at Eagle Pass, interest is developing in the Farmersville deal in Collin County. They expect to begin harvesting a crop of some 500 cars around June 5."

12b. AN INTERESTING REPORT ON WASHINGTON CROPS

As a result of his recent trip to eastern Washington, T. R. Hall sent the following report from Seattle on May 15:-

"The carlot movement of Washington asparagus came to a rather abrupt termination the week ending May 10, though cutting in the Walla Walla district and throughout the lower Yakima Valley was in full progress. Eastern markets were obtaining adequate supplies from within trucking distance; so dealers lost interest in northwestern asparagus. However, growers and shippers turned their attention toward filling cannery contracts and supplying the larger northwestern markets.

"The cannery demand for Washington asparagus is a development of unusual interest. This is a field that has been looked into in an experimental way each of the past three seasons. A national advertising campaign was resorted to this year, in which the superior qualities of green asparagus

were emphasized, and the product has been received with universal approval. Increased acreage is being planned by growers for future seasons. The contract price for 1931 delivery is based upon 5¢ per pound for 6-inch green asparagus.

"Green peas are receiving a great deal of attention from growers around Pasco and also in the Walla Walla district. The crop in both valleys was looking fine, when I saw it last week. There was an excellent set of bloom and pods were well formed, in many fields starting to fill. Growers were expecting to pick about May 20.

"Iceberg lettuce is also coming along nicely both in Pasco and Walla Walla. Lettuce in some Pasco fields was beginning to form heads. The Walla Walla lettuce will be a few days later. The first shipment for the 1931 season rolled from Pasco on May 14 and was billed eastward.

"The estimated acreage of summer onions around Walla Walla is about the same as last year. This is a crop that is receiving some attention from Pasco growers also, though harvesting generally follows after Walla Walla onions have been dug. Pasco growers contend that their onions, which are grown on light sandy soil, are cleaner and brighter than the Walla Walla onions. In both districts, the crop is looking excellent and gives promise of developing satisfactorily.

"The condition of early fruits, sweet cherries, pears and prunes, in both Yakima and Walla Walla is extremely spotted. Estimates of 1931 carload shipments of prunes from Walla Walla valley points range from 600 to 1,000, but the fruit is still dropping and no final forecasts are being made. Sweet cherries were rather hard hit, except where smudging was resorted to. Picking will start about June 1 around Kennewick. Some varieties of pears also suffered from the wind and frosts of early May. Strawberries suffered some damage, but the late-blooming plants escaped. The extent of damage to all early fruits still remains a matter of opinion among growers. It is the opinion of many that faulty pollenization is as much responsible for the poor set of fruit as is the cold frosty weather."

13b. ADDITIONAL CROP REPORTS FROM UTAH

L. S. Fenn sent the following report from Salt Lake City in a letter of May 9:-

"Tomato plants, for setting more than 6,000 acres of tomatoes for cannery purposes, are arriving from Nevada and planting will be heavy next week.

"The commercial acreage of mid-season potatoes is reported slightly heavier than usual. Earlier sections around Plain City in Weber County report the plants showing above ground. A prospective shortage of late water has stimulated the heavy planting of the mid-season crop.

"While it is too early to report exact condition of the fruit, prospects point to the heaviest peach crop in five years. Cherries are thinly set on the trees and were severely damaged by storms; not more than one-third of a normal crop is expected. The apple bloom is light, especially the Jonathans.

"No frost damage has been reported except in the Dixie section in southern Utah, which produces peaches for shipment in early August. They are reported to have not more than one-third of a crop."

14b. RECENT NEWS ON MISSISSIPPI CABBAGE AND OTHER CROPS

J. B. Owens wrote as follows from Crystal Springs in a letter of May 18:-

"The f.o.b. cabbage market in Mississippi during the past week has been very dull. Heavy shipments for the country at large have had a very depressing effect on both the demand and the price. The lowest price for the season was reached on Thursday (May 14) when 100-pound crates sold for 60¢-65¢ f.o.b. cash-track. Since that time the market has shown some slight signs of recovery, but the potential supply of cabbage available for shipment has, for the time being, removed all the speculative features from the deal. Word was circulated that the price today (Monday) would be 85¢ cash-track, and the result is that everybody is hauling cabbage, and shipments will probably be over 100 cars from the State or twice as many as have been shipped on any day so far this season.

"Practically all of the cabbage in the Crystal Springs-Hazlehurst district is being Government-inspected this season and the majority of the shipments have beeb meeting grade. Most of the off-grade stock is loaded in mixed cars with beets and carrots. The heavy cuttings today have brought out a lot of off-grade stock and it is doubtful whether over half the shipments will grade U.S. No. 1. The chief cause for failing to meet grade is seed-stalks, which are the result of trying to hold the crop too long. This will be the heaviest week, and next week should practically finish the season, excluding a few patches of late cabbage which will go out mostly in mixed cars.

"Small quantities of carrots and beets have been moving in mixed cars, but so far only four straight cars of beets have been shipped from the State and no straight cars of carrots. The market on both these commodities has been very dull.

"The weather here has been cool and dry, a combination which is not very satisfactory to either the bean or the tomato crop. Beans are now moving from the lower part of the State and it is expected that shipments will start from this section the last of the week. The tomato crop is not advancing very fast, and the general opinion is that carlot shipments will not start before June 5."

15b. ALABAMA POTATO MOVEMENT AT PEAK

In a brief letter of May 20, W. D. Hull sent the following information from Mobile:-

"Weather conditions permitting, shipments of Alabama potatoes are expected to reach their peak this week. Estimates for the season vary from 3,000 to 3,500 cars. Demand continues good, although prices are rather unsatisfactory. But the shippers seem reconciled to the low prices and would rather keep the shipments moving than sell fewer cars at more money."

16b. ANOTHER SUMMARY ISSUED

An additional summary of a field deal has been issued this week:-

"Marketing Arizona Cantaloupes, 1930 Season," by L. C. Tate.

17b. CODE CHANGE ON "GOD-GOS" PAGE

Effective on receipt of this D.L., please change the code term "GODOM" to read as follows:

GODOM Local delivery charges included

This term will be used following the price quotation, except where specifically stated that it applies to a group of quotations. It is intended particularly for use in quoting certain commodities on the New York City market, and it is believed that this interpretation will be more generally understood than the present term by those who are not acquainted with customs of that market. Mr. Biddle has written as follows concerning such sales:

"For about two years, the trade in New York has made it a practice to sell some commodities 'delivered.' This is especially true of onions and eastern carrots. By this is meant that the receiver or seller guarantees to deliver the commodity to the buyer's store, and to assume the charges. The price quoted is not the net price, but a price subject to certain deductions. Occasionally sales of other commodities are made 'delivered.' This is true mostly when the buyer is able to force down the price by the amount of the delivery charge.

"Delivery charges vary widely and in most cases amount to odd cents which would be rather bothersome and would probably lead to more discussion than the use of the term 'delivered,' if used in the reports. This is the reason we have followed the custom of quoting the prices as reported to us in the market. It would have been possible to simply report the price without any qualifying statement, but this would have been more or less misleading and would have meant that we were boosting the market. On the other hand, it is impossible in many cases to deduct the delivery charge, as I have often found that the salesman himself did not know the exact charge."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	May 29
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	C. D. Schoolcraft	Cabbage*	Jan. 5	May 8*
			Spinach*	Jan. 5	Mar. 7*
			Beets*	Jan. 5	Apr. 30*
			Carrots*	Jan. 6	May 13*
			Beans*	Mar. 20	May 14*
			Potatoes*	Mar. 30	May 16*
			Onions*	Apr. 6	May 12*
			Tomatoes	Apr. 23	June 6
HAMMOND, LA., P.O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton #	Stbr.	Mar. 20	May 25
LAREDO, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	801	W. D. Googe ø	Onions	Apr. 6	May 23 all closed
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	867	R. G. Risser -Q-	Onions	Apr. 14	May 23
BRADENTON, FLA.** Pier Bldg.	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	May 29
BELLE GLADE, FLA.** Glades Hotel	937	B. E. Surry	Beans*	Apr. 20	May 19*
			Peppers*	Apr. 20	May 19*
			Tomatoes	Apr. 20	May 29
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	July 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS. City Hall	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs.	May 5	June 6
			Tomatoes	June 1	June 27
MOBILE, ALA.** Post Office Bldg.	924	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	May 11	June 13
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.**	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.	May 21	June 13
			Potatoes	June 15	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 6	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MONETT, MO.**	857	W. G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 20	June 13
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
MT. OLIVE, N.C.**	810A	R. L. Sutton	Potatoes	June 1	June 27
ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.**	810	H. F. Willson	Potatoes	June 3	June 27
The following stations closed on dates indicated:					
CHADBOURN, N.C.** Mercer Bldg.	805	A. M. McDowell	Stbr.	May 1	May 21
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	A. L. Thomas	Pears	Sept. 3	Nov. 3
		H. S. Duncan	Apples	Sept. 3	May 23
			Onions	Sept. 3	Apr. 11
			Carrots	Sept. 3	May 23
			Cabbage	Sept. 3	Mar. 28
			Celery	Sept. 3	Jan. 10
			Peaches	Sept. 8	Oct. 4
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct. 29
			Potatoes	Oct. 6	May 23

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

R. E. Keller in St. Louis. W. F. Cox in San Francisco.

A. M. McDowell in Atlanta.

#R. L. Sutton on leave. ø W. D. Googe in Fort Worth. -Q- R. G. Risser in San Antonio office.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. WHAT IS A MATURE PINEAPPLE?

In a letter of May 15 from San Juan, Porto Rico, A. S. Mason gave the following report on pineapples, including his description of a mature fruit:

"We have inspected to date 4,826 crates of pineapples for three small shippers. We could have considerable more pineapple work than this, but for several reasons I have hesitated to take it on: We have been very busy getting the shippers of grapefruit properly lined up. This has been a real job, there being only one man on the Island when I arrived who was packing a good U.S. No. 1 pack. Furthermore, there is a great question in my mind as to when a pineapple is mature. From my experience in New York, I have seen thousands of crates containing pineapples that would never ripen properly or have a desirable flavor. As soon as I got here I found the same conditions existing, and it was not until now that I have made up my mind as to just what a mature pineapple is. I will briefly describe one:- The bracts at the base of the eyes are entirely wilted, the shoulder of the pineapple should be well developed, the color of an occasional basal eye should show a tinge of yellow, the eye should begin to flatten to an extent that the central point is about even with the marginal shoulder, the gray-green color between the eyes should entirely have disappeared, and the central part of the eyes should be a dark chocolate-green. Such a pineapple should show at least 9 3/4% sugar and a pressure-test of not more than 28 pounds."

2c. NOTES ON MISSISSIPPI INSPECTION WORK

F. S. Kinsey included the following notes in a letter of May 13 from Crystal Springs, Miss.:-

"Inspections have slackened this week. We had a very successful pea deal. Shippers believe that our inspection held up the price, and certainly we got better quality than Mississippi has ever shipped before.

"We could be inspecting two or three hundred cars of cabbage a day now, if the price would allow. But scarcely any shipments are being made now except on sales, and we have had to drop some of the inspectors until things pick up. Beans will begin moving next week and that will increase our inspections to a small extent. We are going to inspect 50 to 75 cars of potatoes at Columbia, beginning the latter part of next week or the fore part of the week following.

All Mississippi shippers are taking inspection this year, and we expect to have a lot of work on tomatoes during June.

3c. PENNSYLVANIA GRADING OF PRODUCTS SHOWS INCREASE

Pennsylvania growers sold $2,500,000 worth of graded and officially-inspected products during the past season, according to D. M. James, Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets. This is an increase of approximately $1,000,000 over the estimated value of graded products sold during the previous season. A total of 2,975 carloads of graded and Federal-State inspected fruits were shipped and 44,000,000 pounds of raw cannery products were sold on a graded basis during the 1930-31 period, compared with 2,276 carloads of fruits and 13,000,000 pounds of cannery products during the 1929-30 season.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	June 30
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	June 1
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, Foley Hotel, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	June 15
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Van Buren, Ark.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 27 May 10	May 23 July 1
SOUTH CAROLINA:	G. R. Warren, Chamber of Commerce, Charleston, S.C.	Potatoes	May 18	May 30
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Strawberries	May 4	June 1
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	June 1	July 15

-- REPORTS on Maine potatoes can be obtained from Vernon Palmer, Inspector, at Caribou, Maine.

O. G. Strauss can be addressed at Orlando, Fla., until he goes to the Georgia peach belt.

SUPERVISORS are urged to keep the Washington office fully informed regarding necessary changes in the above table. The columns showing products inspected and the dates of beginning and closing should fully represent the work which is being done in each section.

MARKET-NEWS MEN are also urged to assist the editor in keeping the list of field stations (Page 332) up to date in every respect.

4c. REPORTING AVERAGES ON RESTRICTED CERTIFICATES

The expression "average for load __%" has been noted on certificates which were restricted to the top layer of packages or other accessible portions of the load. When the entire contents of a car are accessible and an unrestricted certificate can be issued, it is satisfactory to report the average percentage of decay for the load. But, when only a part of the load is accessible for inspection and the certificate is restricted accordingly, the use of the phrase "average for load" is forbidden. On a restricted certificate, the proper wording would be as shown by the following example of a statement reporting decay: "Ranging from 2% in some packages to 8% in others, average 5%," followed by the usual statement regarding name and degree of decay. This definitely limits the percentage of decay to the portion of the load to which the certificate is restricted, and it is not possible to state the percentage of any condition for the load as a whole. Such a statement is misleading and the practice must be discontinued.

5c. A CAUTION TO FIELD MEN ABOUT ADDRESSES ON ENVELOPES

In California Inspectors' Notes, dated May 15, the following item was published by W. F. Allewelt. It contains a suggestion which really applies to inspectors in all States, as the Washington office frequently gets reports and copies of certificates, etc., which the inspector should have mailed to his State headquarters and not to Washington. It would be well for supervisors to call attention of all inspectors to this item:-

"Occasionally reports, inspection notes and certificates, mailed from different branch offices, appear to go astray in the mails. At times such material, which should have been sent to the Sacramento office, has been mailed to Washington and returned from there. Certain branch offices have been guilty of repeated occurrences of this nature, while others consistently maintain a good record in this respect.

"In the first place, such carelessness results in the failure to receive such material when it is needed. Even more important is the fact that this practice indicates a carelessness which may extend to more important phases of the work.

"Particular care should be taken in each office to see that all material mailed is properly addressed. It is particularly necessary to watch this point when envelopes which are already addressed are used for such mailing. We will appreciate the cooperation of all branch offices in eliminating these errors." - W. F. A.

6c. BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

Messrs. Burton and Briel, of Richmond, Va., have been declared in bankruptcy. Any outstanding bills against this firm should be forwarded to the Washington office at once.

7c. LARGE VOLUME OF WORK ON MEXICAN PRODUCTS

R. H. Bertelson advised from Nogales, Arizona, that the inspection work on Mexican products was about finished and he expected to close the

(continued over)

office there on May 20. Below is a tabulation of crossings (or arrivals) and of inspections on the several commodities for two seasons:

	1930-31 Season		1929-30 Season	
	Crossings	Inspections	Crossings	Inspections
Tomatoes.....	4,209	2,470	5,579	
Peas.....	1,355	269	1,998	(totals
Peppers.....	170	49	334	by
Beans.....	32	14	-	products
Lettuce.....	(?)	3	-	not
Eggplant.....	3	1	-	given)
Mixed.....	196	68	242	
Watermelons.....	1	-	75	
Lima beans.....	1	-	-	
Cucumbers.....	1	-	-	
Total:	5,968	2,874	8,228	2,004

These figures indicate a great increase in percentage of products inspected. For the season now closing about 48% of the crossings were handled by the inspection service, while for the 1929-30 season the figure was only 24%. Shipments from Mexico this year have been about as large as in any previous season except that of 1929-30, even though the tariff on tomatoes was greatly increased.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman spent yesterday at Norfolk, Va., conferring with potato growers and shippers in that territory regarding the early potato situation.

J. W. Dykes, of the Regulatory Branch, has gone to points in New Jersey and to New York City, for the purpose of making investigations under the Produce Agency Act.

Brice Edwards left Washington on Tuesday and is canvassing various points in Virginia and North Carolina in an effort to learn of handlers of fresh fruits or vegetables who are yet to be licensed under the P.A.C. Act.

Robert Bier expects to go next Sunday to Marion, Md., and other points in the Eastern Shore territory, to assist in getting the shipping-point inspection work started on the various important products marketed in that region. He may be absent a week or 10 days.

B. C. Boree has returned to his desk in the Bieber Building, after having spent nearly four weeks at the offices of the Civil Service Commission, assisting in the marking of examination papers. H. J. Clay returned some days ago from a similar but shorter period of service at the Commission.

W. A. Hilgeson, who had been assisting in the St. Louis inspection office, has now gone to Memphis, Tenn., where he will substitute for R. A. Smith during the next two weeks, while Mr. Smith is on annual leave.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Word from G. W. Winfrey indicates that he will supervise the shipping-point inspection work on Missouri strawberries, beginning next week. This is in addition to his work in Arkansas, which he is handling out of the Van Buren office. Inspectors needing information about inspected cars of Missouri berries can communicate with Mr. Winfrey at Van Buren, Ark.

Grover A. Kurtz, of Muncie, Ind., whose appointment to the Inspection Service and whose joining the training-class in Chicago was mentioned in last week's D.L., finally decided not to accept appointment, and his name should be omitted from all records or lists of personnel.

W. W. Anderson has completed the inspection work for the Navy at Charleston, S.C., and has now returned to his headquarters at Birmingham, Ala. The fleet moved from Charleston to Newport, R.I.

W. C. Hangstafer, of the New York staff, will proceed at once to Newport, R.I., where he will handle inspections for the Navy from now until September. His local address doubtless will be: Government Landing.

The list of field stations of the Market News Service, on page 332 of this D.L., was stenciled before definite information had been received regarding the closing of certain offices. It now develops that the station on strawberries at Hammond, La., will be closed today, and R. L. Sutton will take a few days' leave en route to his next assignment at Mt. Olive, N.C. The field stations at Laredo and Crystal City will be closed this Saturday, as most of the Texas onion crop has been moved. R. G. Risser will go to the San Antonio office temporarily, to work on his summaries, and W. D. Googe will return to his headquarters in the Fort Worth office.

Mrs. Charles E. Womersley, of Portland, Oregon, - better known to the older market-news force as Irene Clark or "Freckles," - has called on office friends with her two small children. Mrs. Womersley came to Washington as delegate to the National Convention of the Society of New England Women, of which she is the Portland secretary, and will spend some time in the East before returning home.

W. Gary Thompson has gone from the Chicago office of the Market News Service to Monett, Mo., where he will issue reports on strawberries for the next three weeks.

W. E. Harrison, of the Baltimore market-news office, conferred with members of the Washington staff yesterday.

ANOTHER CHANGE should be made on the revised Inspectors' Address List, dated April 20:- Under Boston, please add the residence address of M. E. Smith as 57 Hawthorne Ave., Auburndale, Mass., phone West Newton 1751-R.

SATURDAY, May 30, will be observed as a full holiday in all offices, it being Memorial Day.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 22 May 29, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS UNDER P.A.C. ACT

Several cases under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act have reached the stage for the holding of public hearings. Hearings are being held in Richmond, Va., on May 28 on the complaints filed by O.N. Harsha, of our Division, against T. B. Pearman & Co., Inc., and the Richmond Fruit and Produce Co., alleging failure to keep adequate records. On Friday, May 29, there will be held in Richmond another hearing, involving a complaint made by Elmer G. Porter, of Caywood, N.Y., against J. Thomas Burnett, of Richmond, alleging unjustified rejection of a car of grapes.

On Friday, June 5, there will be held in Boston a hearing in the complaint filed by the Agricultural Exchange, Pittsburgh, against the B. & D. Fruit Company, of Boston. This complaint alleges rejection without reasonable cause of a car of grapes, PFE- 12204.

On Tuesday, June 9, in the Suffolk County Court House at Riverhead, Long Island, will be held a hearing against the Long Island Produce & Fertilizer Co., Inc., and I. M. Young & Co., Inc., both of Riverhead. These complaints were filed by Felix Spatola, Philadelphia, and allege failure to deliver certain cars of potatoes in accordance with the terms of contract.

Judge R. L. Dillman, C. P. Dorr and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan (stenographer), of the Solicitor's Office, will attend all of these hearings, and O. N. Harsha, of the Regulatory Branch of the Fruit and Vegetable Division, will attend the Richmond hearings.

2a. ARGENTINA WILL ACCEPT FRUIT IN BARRELS OR BASKETS

Some days ago, the Foreign Agricultural Service Division of our Bureau issued an elaborate report on the strict regulations by Argentina, in South America, regarding the importation of certain fruits. The implication of the regulations was that fruit packed in barrels or baskets would not be permitted to enter that country. In this connection, the following is important:

A Buenos Aires dispatch today (May 27) says:- "As a result of negotiations of the United States Embassy, the Minister of Agriculture has decreed that American apples and pears may be imported in barrels or bushel baskets. The Provisional Government had previously decreed that such fruit must be shipped to Argentina in boxes. Fruit shipped in barrels or baskets must conform to all other sanitary restrictions of the Argentine Bureau of Agricultural Defense."

3a. LARGE MID-SEASON TOMATO CROPS

Eastern Texas this year expects a record-breaking crop of 2,400,000 bushels of tomatoes. Mississippi also looks for a good crop of 1,428,000 bushels. Total in five second-early States is 11% more than last year.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. OZARK STRAWBERRIES GREATLY DELAYED

W. Gary Thompson wrote as follows in a letter of May 24 from Monett:-

"The Ozark strawberry movement is having difficulty in getting under way. The first car was shipped last year on May 5, but the first car this season is now expected to be loaded on Monday, the 25th, at Anderson. Movement has been retarded by the very late spring, the early part of which was also dry. A 'sod-soaking' rain on the night of the 18th was regarded as very beneficial. This has been followed by several excessively cool days and nights. Last year a total of 807 cars moved from the district. Estimates at this time place the expected 1931 movement at 800 to 1,000 cars."

2b. A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN TEXAS ONION SEASON

R. G. Risser sent the following report from Crystal City in a letter of May 21:-

"The Bermuda onion season of Texas this year has been extraordinary in more than one way. The lateness of the movement, the long-continued rainy weather, the deficiency in consumer demand in the terminal markets, the uncertain carrying quality of the onions, the increased use of sacks as a standard container, and the generally unsatisfactory marketing situation have been among the features which are notable.

"The season is now drawing to a close for southern Texas in general and for the main part of the Winter Garden section in particular. The heavy movement from Zavalla and Dimmit counties is considered finished. Shipments from the State passed 200 cars daily the middle of May, with a peak of 218 on May 15. With a period of 10 rainless days, growers were able to load more onions than at any other time during the season, and terminal markets were oversupplied in consequence. On Saturday, May 16, the track holdings in 12 leading markets increased 60 cars over the previous day's figure to a total of 288 cars,- high record for the season up to that time. On the following Monday, the holdings had increased to 415 cars and continued above the 400-car mark for a few days.

"Carlot shipments of Texas onions have been going into more than 100 markets of the United States and a few markets in Canada. Shippers have endeavored to use the smaller cities to their full capacity but have found, in some instances, that the capacity this year was not as great as in some former seasons. The movement of onions by boat from Galveston to New York is said to be smaller than in previous years, amounting to only a few hundred cars.

"Movement of Texas onions to date has been holding around 1,000 cars short of last year's figure during the first half of May, and it is generally believed that the final total for the season will be much lower than for 1930 when 6,300 cars were shipped. With about 3,700 cars shipped and prospects of further movement much reduced by rains which fell since the middle of May, it is not probable that this year's output will approach that of last year, in spite of the additional tonnage from the Coastal Bend section. It is not only the lighter movement but also the low price, which is a serious blow to all concerned."

NEWS ITEMS from branch offices will be welcomed by the D.L. editor.

3b. SOUTHERN TEXAS TOMATO MOVEMENT ACTIVE

C. D. Schoolcraft wrote as follows from Brownsville in a letter of May 24:-

"Demand for Rio Grande Valley tomatoes has been fair all week and for the past three days has been good. Under pressure of increased Texas shipments and a fairly heavy movement from Florida, prices declined about 25¢ to a level of $1.25-$1.40 per lug of 6x7 and larger. Sizes are still small, with few cars running much over 50% of the 6x6 and larger. Quality has been good. The peak day of the Valley movement was on Tuesday, with 155 cars shipped. This was about 40 cars under last year's peak. Shipments to date are around 300 cars behind last year's movement.

"The Yoakum district got under way last week and unofficial reports are that around 40 cars a day were being shipped the latter part of the week. Sizes in that district are running larger than in the Valley, with most cars 6x6 and larger. Due to larger sizes and a slight rate advantage, prices in that district are 10¢-25¢ higher than in the Valley. It was felt that, with better sizes, the movement from Yoakum would have an adverse effect on the Valley tomato market, but such has not been the case so far. Possibly better maturity here has been a factor in the Valley's favor.

"I am enclosing a clipping which would indicate that the far West and the Atlantic Coast cannot claim all honors for long-distance produce trucking. It shows tomatoes being hauled from LaFeria, Texas, to Chicago, an air-line distance which is slightly greater than that between the Mexican and Canadian borders on the Pacific Coast and is approximately equal to the distance between Miami and Hartford, Conn., in the East. At present, only small sizes or off-grade stock can be purchased in the Valley at 1½¢ per pound (as claimed by this truck driver) and the Chicago market is being quoted at $1.75-$2 per lug or about 6¢-7¢ per pound. I am not aware as to just how much of this extremely long-distance trucking is being carried on from here, but the truck has become a very great factor in supplying towns of Texas and nearby States."

4b. HIGHER ONION PRICES AT TEXAS SHIPPING POINTS

W. D. Googe wrote as follows from Laredo in a letter of May 24:-

"Rainy weather again delayed the Texas onion movement last week, and shipments dropped to about 450 cars, compared with 1,175 the week before. Laredo has practically cleaned up the few cars remaining on hand at the beginning of the week, and the Winter Garden section also has about finished. Some 500 or 600 cars remain to be shipped the coming week, about equally divided between the Eagle Pass and Coastal Bend sections.

"Prices at shipping points were decidedly better, as a result of the lighter shipments. Yellow Bermudas in 50-pound sacks, U.S. Commercial grade, advanced from around 65¢ to 90¢ f.o.b. cash-track. Wire-order prices were about 10¢ higher. Some shippers predict that prices will advance another 25¢ during the coming week. Considerable off-grade stock has been moved at a wide range of prices, according to the percentage of U.S. No. 1 stock. Terminal markets have shown a firmer undertone, although prices paid by jobbers continue to be comparatively low. All markets report many poor-quality onions, which are the result of the unfavorable growing and harvesting season."

STRAWBERRIES in the 10 late shipping States are estimated at 66,501,000 quarts, or 11% more than last season. Pacific Northwest has a good crop.

5b. CALIFORNIA PLUMS AND PEACHES ARRIVING

E. R. Biddle wrote the following letter from New York City on May 21:-

"The first car of California mixed fruit for this season was unloaded yesterday, May 20. This car contained 340 crates of Beauty plums, 4x5 bringing $10; 5x5 $3.35 and 5x6 $2.80, the average for the entire lot being $3.06. The balance of the car contained 480 lugs of Alexander peaches, selling at $1.75-$4.25, the average being $2.45."

6b. ANOTHER COLD SPELL IN EASTERN COLORADO

In a letter of May 23 from Denver, Bryce Morris sent the following report on the low temperatures in that territory:-

"The past week has brought freezing temperatures to the Eastern Slope of Colorado, attended with heavy snowfall, ranging from four and five inches up to as much as 10 inches at various points. We are not able to determine exactly as yet, but indications are that the cherry crop around Loveland and Longmont was seriously injured. The Western Slope fared better, with temperatures scarcely at freezing point, so that prospects are still bright for a record production of peaches, pears and apples in that section."

7b. MUCH INTEREST IN GREEN CORN IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

A letter of May 21 from B. E. Surry, at Belle Glade, Florida, tells of the green-corn industry in that section:-

"I have noted with interest the development of the new corn industry around Belle Glade. At the present time, cars of corn shipped north are netting the growers around $600. The complete cost of preparing a crate for shipment, from the time the corn is delivered to the packing-house until it is crated, pre-cooled, and loaded on car, including the cost of the crate, amounts to around 50¢. With returns of around $1.50-$2 to the grower, there is considerable profit, whereas tomatoes and beans are hardly paying the expenses of growing and harvesting."

In a letter of May 23, Mr. Surry sent the following additional information:-

"Shipments of tomatoes from Lake Okeechobee section have been rather light during the past week. The market generally has been dull, with very slow demand and trading. With the strengthening of northern markets, growers and shippers attempted to raise the price of Fancy count 6's from a range of $1.75-$2 to around $2.50, but practically no sales were made. Buyers refused to pay such prices, in view of the fact that total tomato shipments for the country were quite heavy. Shipments of tomatoes from the Florida East Coast to date total 2,963 cars, while 3,851 cars were loaded last year during the same period. With all indications that the summer rains are not far off, shipments will probably decrease considerably after June 1.

"For the past few days, Belle Glade has loaded a majority of green beans shipped from Florida, as well as practically all of the green corn. The movement of Lima beans has begun to increase. Growers have received greater returns from corn than for any other vegetable now being marketed."

POTATOES in six second-early States are forecast at 22,364,000 bushels an increase of 16% over their 1930 commercial production.

8b. IMPERIAL CANTALOUPES REACH FIRST PEAK OF SHIPMENTS

A. E. Prugh wrote in part as follows from Brawley in a letter dated May 19; it was a little too late for last week's D.L.:-

"The Imperial Valley cantaloupe market continued to decline until $1.75 f.o.b. cash-track per standard 45 was reached on Sunday, May 17. At this figure, shippers made a determined effort to stabilize the market on the 18th. The price held with a moderate demand at $1.75, although buyers tried all day to buy for $1.60-$1.65. (Editor's note:- A price of $1.10-$1.15 was reached on May 27.)

"Vines continue healthy and are now yielding fairly heavy, and the early peak day may reach 350, with some predicting 400 cars, sometime between May 23 and 27. (Editor's note:- A peak of 380 cars was reported on May 25.) Last night a cool northeast wind blew and retarded ripening somewhat. Sizes are running rather large and some jumbo 27's will be packed this week.

"Flavor is generally good and a few hot days back East may cause a better demand, but so far only light shipments have arrived, with markets weaker every day. Pittsburgh weakened on the 19th, with only two cars on track and a temperature at 8 A.M. of about 70°.

"The cost of freight and refrigeration per standard-45 crate is $1.32 to Chicago; $1.57 to New York; 38¢ to Los Angeles; 56¢ to San Francisco, and $1.10 to Seattle. Running time is arrival 7th day in Chicago and 9th day in New York City.

"Shipments of 'choice' or ripes commenced to increase Saturday, with 35 cars billed to points west of Denver and a heavy truck movement to Los Angeles. Los Angeles received 5,300 crates by truck on the 18th and the market broke to a range of $2-$2.25 for standard 45's. On that date, the 'choice' price, f.o.b., dropped to a level with 'fancy' or those for eastern shipment. An occasional car of 'hard ripes' for shipment to the Northwest sold at 15¢-25¢ premium. Some shippers load 'hard ripes' next the bunkers for eastern shipment. The 'hard ripe' is almost a full-slip melon, perhaps picked a day ahead.

"A few Honey Balls have been shipped during the past 10 days, about a dozen crates loaded to the car in such shipments. The first car of Honey Dews was shipped by express to New York on May 13 and a freight car went to Chicago on the 15th.

"We have just issued a cantaloupe and watermelon shippers' telephone-directory, with a total of 76 firms listed.

"The first truckload of watermelons,- Klondikes,- went to Los Angeles on May 15 and sold in small lots at 6¢-6½¢ per pound. The first carload of watermelons went out the 17th to Sacramento and was reported sold at $75 f.o.b. per ton. The second car was billed to Los Angeles on the 18th.

"The carrot market continues dull. Imperial Valley shipments were down to 8 cars yesterday, mostly from near Holtville. If the market were better, many more carrots could be shipped. Movement is expected to last through May, as compared with 1930 when the last car was shipped from the Valley on April 28.

"The tomato market is still weak. Two or three cars a day have been moving, with many going out by truck. Los Angeles received 19,474 packages on May 11 by truck from Imperial and Coachella valleys, and 11,400 on the 19th. The Los Angeles market today was $1.25-$1.35 on Imperial lugs 5x5 and 5x6; $1-$1.15 on 6x6, and 75¢-90¢ on 6x7's. Trucks have been moving Imperial tomatoes as far as Salt Lake City, an occasional one stopping at Las Vegas, the Boulder Dam headquarters, for partial unloading. Texas tomatoes have been reaching Seattle in competition."

9b. LETTUCE SEASON OPENING IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

T. R. Hall sent the following report from Seattle under date of May 22:-

"Iceberg lettuce is claiming the attention of Puget Sound shippers, and indications point to general activity in the packing-houses of the Auburn-Sumner district beginning about May 25. Although the first carlot of the 1931 season moved from Pasco, practically all fields in that district are showing tipburn, and prospects are not bright for a satisfactory movement out of eastern Washington. Puget Sound growers have been favored with cool nights and considerable cloudy weather, with the result that quality of their lettuce has improved. The early cuttings will run heavily to 5-dozen sizes.

"The lettuce season in western Washington was started with the forwarding of one car from Sumner on May 20, four days earlier than the season opened last year. This car was billed to Minneapolis. Practically no cash buyers have reached the Northwest lettuce districts, and various rumors are circulated about the probable extent of activities of these buyers this season. The f.o.b. usual-terms market is around $1.90-$2 per crate of stock grading 80%-85% U.S. No. 1. The few cars moving from Pasco are quoted at $1.50-$1.60 for 4-5 dozens and $1.25 for 6's, f.o.b. usual terms.

"The deplorable ending of the potato season in the Yakima Valley is something that seems to refuse to pass from the minds of growers and shippers, as long as there are stocks still on the farms. Active sorting ocntimues in some districts, and buyers take the best Washington Combination grade potatoes at $10, sacked per ton. However, shrinkage is very heavy and farm holdings are diminshing.

"The supplies of potatoes that have been placed in cold storage for June and July trading remain a subject of considerable speculation among the trade. However, there probably are not over 250 cars in Yakima Valley storages and less than 100 in the Coast houses. If this information is anywhere near accurate, holdings are relatively light. But new potatoes will be available around Kennewick by June 15 or 20; so a potato shortage is not impending.

"Among the other items that are receiving attention in the Northwest are strawberries, green peas, and cauliflower. Strawberry harvest in western Washington will probably be in full swing around Memorial Day. The quality of this crop promises to be good. A few local green peas will be on the market within a week, and the carlot movement will start early in June. Some local cauliflower is now reaching the market, but this crop will not be of much importance for several weeks. Most Puget Sound cauliflower is consumed locally or used in mixed-car shipments to nearby markets."

10b. ALABAMA POTATO MOVEMENT NEARING AN END

The following report on Alabama potatoes came from W. D. Hull, at Mobile, under date of May 25:-

"Heavy rains last Wednesday, May 20, caused a break in the heavy movement of Baldwin County potatoes, which proved to be of some benefit to the local market. Shipments on Wednesday and Thursday decreased to less than 100 cars, and the market assumed a firmer tone as the result of a very good demand.

"When digging was resumed on Friday, movement was much heavier, but shippers reportedthat they had no difficulty in disposing of all their loading at $1-$1.10 per 100-pound sack of U.S. No. 1 Bliss Triumphs.

"Harvesting will commence this week on the western side of Mobile Bay, in the section around Grand Bay and Theodore. Acreage over there is much smaller than in Baldwin County, so that movement from Alabama this week will about equal that of the week just past. With shipments of approximately 960 cars last week and 2,200 to date this season, shippers feel that the crop is nearly two-thirds moved."

11b. HEAVY MOVEMENT OF MISSISSIPPI CABBAGE

A letter of May 25 from J. B. Owens, at Crystal Springs, Miss., gives the following report on vegetable crops:-

"Shipments of cabbage from Mississippi reached their peak on May 21, with 125 cars forwarded on that date. This is one of the largest, if not the largest, single day's movement of cabbage the State has ever had. This sharp increase in shipments was due to two factors, namely: a falling market and the rapid deterioration of the quality of the stock in the fields. On Monday, May 18, the f.o.b. cash-track price of 80¢-85¢ per 100-pound crate caused heavy loadings throughout the district, which in turn brought about a decline in prices. Beginning Tuesday morning and lasting until noon Wednesday, approximately five inches of rain fell throughout this section, stopping all loading for the time being. This intermission gave the shippers time to clean up all of their rollers from Monday, but nevertheless the market continued to decline. By this time the growers were beginning to get alarmed about the effect this heavy rain would have on their cabbage, some of it full mature and many heads developing seed stalks. Therefore, on Thursday an extra effort was made to get as much of it off as possible at the prevailing prices. Most of this and the next day's shipments were rolled unsold. The demand has been slow throughout the entire deal and there is very little indication that it will improve to any extent in the near future. This week will finish the bulk of the movement, but there will be a few cars out daily until tomatoes start moving.

"The first straight car of snap beans was shipped from Mississippi on May 20. Quality of the stock is very good, but the crop is late and the movement will be rather light for the remainder of the week. Prices for the first shipments in mixed cars were very good, considering prices being paid elsewhere, the best green beans selling as high as $1.50 per hamper, f.o.b. usual terms. There are several varieties grown in this district, the Giant Stringless being the most generally used. The Bountiful variety is planted to a greater extent this year than ever before, while the Black Valentine seems to be losing its popularity.

"The consensus of opinion still puts June 5 as the approximate date for the beginning of the tomato season, but it will be June 10 before this crop will move in any quantity. The revent rains have been very beneficial and the crop is responding nicely."

12b. ADDITION TO "GOD-GOS" PAGE OF CODE

Effective June 5, please add the following to the "GOD-GOS" page of code.

GOQ - Shippers quoting for (day) 's loading, weather permitting.

Thus, "GOQUX" would mean "Shippers quoting for Thursday's loading,--" This should ordinarily be used only when there are not sufficient sales to establish market quotations for the current day. It has been suggested by R. G. Risser, after his experience during the Texas onion season, just closing.

B. C. BOREE, Spec. in Mkt. News.

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage*	Jan. 5	May 8*
			Spinach*	Jan. 5	Mar. 7*
			Beets*	Jan. 5	Apr. 30*
			Carrots*	Jan. 6	May 13*
			Beans*	Mar. 20	May 14*
			Potatoes*	Mar. 30	May 16*
			Onions*	Apr. 6	May 12*
			Tomatoes	Apr. 23	June 5
LAREDO, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	801	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 6	June 3 ?
BRADENTON, FLA.** Pier Bldg.	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	June 5
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	July 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS. City Hall	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs.	May 5	June 6
			Tomatoes	June 8	July 3
MOBILE, ALA.** Post Office Bldg.	924	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	May 11	June 6
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.	May 21	June 13
			Potatoes	June 15	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 6	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MONETT, MO.**	857	W. G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 26	June 13
MT. OLIVE, N.C.**	810A	R. L. Sutton	Potatoes	June 1	June 27
ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.**	810	H. F. Willson	Potatoes	June 3	June 27
The following stations probably will open on date indicated:					
JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS**	811	W. D. Googe	Tomatoes	June 8	July 3
LEESBURG, FLA.**	912	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 8	June 27
MACON, GA.**	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 1
The following stations closed on dates indicated:					
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 1	May 23
HAMMOND, LA. P. O. Bldg.	802	R. L. Sutton	Stbr.	Mar. 26	May 23
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	867	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 14	May 27
BELLE GLADE, FLA.** Glades Hotel	937	B. E. Surry	Beans	Apr. 20	May 18
			Peppers	Apr. 20	May 18
			Tomatoes	Apr. 20	May 29

** State cooperating. * Reports discontinued.

W. F. Cox in San Francisco.
R. E. Keller en route to Macon.
B. E. Surry in Kansas City.
A. M. McDowell in St. Louis.
C. D. Schoolcraft assigned permanently to Detroit office.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. UNPAID BILLS

A list of firms that are indebted to the Inspection Service is being mailed under separate cover to each office. The accounts are long past due, and instructions are being issued to make no further inspections for these firms until they have met their obligations. The list is confidential.

Through the Division Letter, the field offices will be kept advised of firms who have paid their bills and firms whose names should be added to the list. The inspector in charge of each office will be held responsible for keeping this list up to date. Bills which cannot be collected after following the usual procedure as outlined in the Inspection Handbook should be forwarded promptly to Washington.

2c. COMPULSORY INSPECTION LAW FOR COLORADO

In a letter of May 21 from the Denver office, E. F. McKune, Supervising Inspector, advised us that the Governor of the State signed the compulsory inspection law on May 18. Mr. McKune comments as follows:- "This bill makes inspection compulsory on all our major commodities, which means that there will be considerably more work in some of the districts, especially the Arkansas Valley and in the immediate vicinity of Denver."

It is understood that the new law becomes effective 90 days after signing by the Governor.

3c. MISSOURI STRAWBERRIES BEING INSPECTED

G. W. Winfrey, in a letter of May 25, reported that he had moved his field headquarters to Monett, Mo., for the period of the berry season in that State. He included the following crop comments:-

"Berries are very late already and will not move in any quantity until the end of this week. Applications are on hand for inspection of about two-thirds of the crop. A few other associations may yet come in. A report from Oklahoma says that potatoes will start in the Muskogee district about June 15. The potato crop down in the Red River Valley will be somewhat earlier."

4c. ENCLOSURES FOR INSPECTORS

With this D.L., each inspector should receive copies of the new grades for Raspberries and the revised grades for Northern-Grown Onions, as issued by Mr. Pailthorp's project.

5c. SIZE OF POTATO SACKS IN GENERAL USE

W. C. Lynn, of the Trenton, N.J., office has compiled and published a 7-paged mimeographed circular on the subject: "Size of Potato Sacks in General Use." Individual reports are presented for about 20 States and two reports for Canada. An outline map of the United States shows graphically the prevailing type or size of container in each part of the country. The report is of interest and value, and copies can be had from Trenton office, Room 606 First Mechanics Bank Bldg.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING APRIL, 1931

Symbols:- N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS	ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS											
	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED		Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED		TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-Weight	
Stations	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
GREAT LAKES	100302	0	140	0	100442	0	0	0	0	0
NEW YORK	137083	60266	11287	2813	148370	63079	653	0	0	0
NORFOLK	561649	0	8360	0	570009	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	294968	19213	4954	170	299922	19383	625	19	0	0
SAN DIEGO	(Report not received)									
SAN FRANCISCO	568150	56000	60300	0	628450	56000	0	0	0	0
SAN PEDRO	395376	0	8654	0	404030	0	73	0	0	0
VALLEJO	(Report not received)									
WASHINGTON	1975	0	50	0	2025	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2059503	135479	93745	2983	2153248	138462	1351	19	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U. S. SHIPPING BOARD										
NEW YORK	7459		0		7459		0		0	
NORFOLK	7413		1704		9117		0		0	
TOTAL	14872		1704		16576		0		0	
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U.S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL										
CHICAGO	39535		13370		52905		0		0	
GREAT LAKES	48967		2350		51317		0		0	
MILWAUKEE	13615		1510		15125		0		0	
NEW YORK	168897		9690		178587		0		0	
PHILADELPHIA	35772		6575		42347		0		0	
ST. LOUIS	26767		0		26767		0		0	
TOTAL	333553		33495		367048		0		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:

	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	243277	63637	5572
Munson S.S. Line	45404	12018	118
Dollar Line	29475	10636	579
American France Line	20793	4280	302
American Diamond Line	19138	4686	113
American Brazil Line	5271	797	0
	363358	96054	6684

The San Pedro office also inspected the following for the Navy:- 3310 lbs. bread; 1276 lbs. butter; 425 lbs. cheese.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING POINT-INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Opening	Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	June 30
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	June 5
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, Foley Hotel, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	June 15
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
ARKANSAS AND MISSOURI:	G. W. Winfrey, First Natl. Bank Bldg. Monett, Mo.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 27 May 10	June 13 July 1
SOUTH CAROLINA:	G. R. Warren, Chamber of Commerce, Charleston, S. C.	Potatoes	May 18	June 3
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Strawberries Vegetables	May 4 June 1	June 6 July 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	July 15

Reports on Maine potatoes can be obtained from Vernon Palmer, Inspector, at Caribou, Maine.

Reports on southern Indiana strawberries can be had from J. E. Dickerson, at Indianapolis office.

6c. INSPECTIONS IN FLORIDA DURING FIRST HALF OF MAY

The following is a summary of a report from O. G. Strauss for Florida:-

FRUITS:

	Grapefruit	Oranges	Tangerines	Mixed	Total
Fruit inspections May 1-15:	11	19	-	2	32
" " to Apr. 30:	498	648	40	340	1526
" " through May 15:	509	667	40	342	1558

VEGETABLES:

	Beets	Cabbage	Carrots	Celery	Cukes	Letc.	Peppers	Potatoes	Stbr.	Tomatoes	Mixed	Total
May 1-15:	-	-	-	33	26	-	-	680	-	89	3	833*
to Apr. 30:	1	28	8	4031	19	22	61	184	179	40	31	4604
thru May 15:	1	28	8	4064	45	22	61	864	179	129	34	5437*

Total fruit and vegetables inspections May 1-15:- 865

Season totals through May 15:

Year:-	1931	1930	1929
Cars:-	6995	5977	7474

* Including 1 car beans and 1 car peanuts, May 1-15.

7c. BRIEF NOTES FROM CALIFORNIA

California Inspectors' Notes dated May 22 includes these items:-

"Two men have been transferred to San Joaquin Valley to handle inspections of plums and apricots in the Fresno and Tulare County sections. Most of these early plums are going to be exported. Plum inspection in the Penryn-Newcastle section is also starting.

"The growers in the Shafter district agreed last week not to ship potatoes unless sold f.o.b. This slowed up shipments considerably, although shipments are now fairly heavy again."

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

OFFICE NOTES:

Robert G. Hill plans to leave Washington next Tuesday for a 10-days' investigational trip to North Carolina, where he will gather information preparatory to the formulation of United States grades for blueberries.

At the last minute, it was found necessary to continue one of the market-news offices on onions in southern Texas, because of urgent demands for this service by growers and shippers. The field station at Crystal City was closed on Wednesday of this week and R. G. Risser proceeded to Laredo, where he will continue the market reports until the middle of next week. W. D. Googe, who had been operating the Laredo station, proceeded to Brownsville, where he took over the work formerly handled by C. D. Schoolcraft. The Brownsville office will be kept open until June 5.

After six years of very effective service in the Market News project, W. G. Lensen, who has been in charge of the work in Detroit since August of 1929, will transfer on June 1 to the Regulatory Branch of our Division, where he will assist in making investigations under the P.A.C. Act and the Produce Agency Act. His headquarters from now on will be Washington, D.C.

C. D. Schoolcraft, who has been with the Market News Service since August, 1928, has been assigned permanently to the Detroit office, and will succeed Mr. Lensen there early next week. Please revise your address-list.

W. L. Evans, of the Regulatory Branch, expects to leave Washington next Monday for a field trip in the interest of the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act. He will travel to Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, and Muncie, Ind., making investigations of alleged violations of the Act. At Detroit, W. G. Lensen will join Mr. Evans and go with him on the remainder of this trip.

R. C. Butner expects to spend the first three days of next week, June 1 to 3, in Chicago, where he will confer with inspectors and with members of the training-class which is now in progress.

H. F. Willson, who has operated the Winter Haven field station of the news service on citrus fruits, closed that office last Saturday but remained at Winter Haven most of this week, to complete his distribution summary on Florida citrus. He will now proceed to Elizabeth City, N.C., where he will issue market reports on potatoes.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):-

R. L. Sutton has completed his brief period of leave and will open the news service on potatoes at Mt. Olive, N.C., next Monday.

R. E. Keller, who was substituting in the St. Louis market-news office, is proceeding today to Macon, Ga., where he will make the necessary contacts preparatory to opening the service on peaches about June 8.

A. M. McDowell, who had returned to the Atlanta office after closing the Chadbourn, N.C., field station, has gone to St. Louis to take over the work which Mr. Keller was handling in the absence of M.M. Thomas, who is in the inspectors' training-class at Chicago.

R. E. Corbin, in charge of the Kansas City market-news work, expects to spend about a wekk, beginning next Wednesday, in the peach belt of Arkansas, making contacts on the basis of which he will issue daily market reports on peaches from Kansas City during the Arkansas season.

B. E. Surry, who closes the field station at Belle Glade, Fla., this Saturday, will proceed to Kansas City and substitute for Mr. Corbin during the first part of June.

F. M. Lyle, inspector at Kansas City, will be on annual leave at Quinlan, Texas, from June 1 to 17, and D. C. Beeler, of the Chicago staff, will handle that work during Mr. Lyle's absence.

W. A. Davis, collaborator at Boise, Idaho, for the past year and a half, expects to leave the service at the end of May, and will be succeeded at Boise by Mrs. Mance L. Farley, as collaborator with the Market News Service.

C. G. Brand, of the Philadelphia inspection staff, unfortunately sprained an ankle on May 9 and has been obliged to be off duty since that date. He hopes to return to work next week.

G. W. Winfrey has advised that the D.L. was in error last week in stating that his supervision of shipping-point inspection work on Missouri strawberries would be handled from the Van Buren, Ark., office. Mr. Winfrey has transferred his headquarters temporarily to Monett, Mo., and any reports on certifications of Missouri berries can be had from him at Monett.

G. R. Warren, who has been supervising the inspection of potatoes in the Charleston district of South Carolina, plans to return to North Carolina next Monday, according to a wire received this morning. Telegrams or mail for Mr. Warren can be sent in care of R. B. Etheridge, Chief, Division of Markets, Raleigh, N.C., during the next few weeks, while he will be supervising the inspection work on North Carolina potatoes. The table on page 349 of this D.L. was stenciled and mimeographed before this change of headquarters for Mr. Warren was received.

Shipping-point inspection service will be given this season on southern Indiana strawberries, and the certificates will be typed at Indianapolis office. Reports can be obtained from J. E. Dickerson, at Indianapolis.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 23 June 5, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ANOTHER PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

On Friday, June 12, in Washington, D.C., another public hearing will be held under provisions of the P.A.C. Act. This complaint by C. H. Musselman, of Biglerville, Pa., involves a car of apples handled by W. W. Leishear & Son, commission merchants in Washington.

The hearing which was to have been held in Boston today (June 5) was indefinitely postponed.

2a. A GOOD BULLETIN ON FLORIDA FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Under date of May 1, 1931, the State Department of Agriculture, at Tallahassee, Florida, issued a bulletin of 108 pages, entitled:- "From Field to Market with Florida Vegetables and Citrus Fruits." Part I covers 13 important vegetable crops produced in Florida:

Green Beans	Cucumbers	White Potatoes
Cabbage	Eggplant	Sweet Potatoes
Celery	Lettuce	Tomatoes
Green Corn	Green Peas	Watermelons
	Peppers	

For each individual crop, the following data are given concisely:

Location	Acreage	Grade	Competitive Shipments
Varieties	Cost	Carlot Loading	Distribution
Planting	Container	Rates	Market Preferences
Maturity	Packing	Florida Shipments	Terminal Market Prices
Yield			

Nearly all of the 13 products have graphic charts, showing the seasonal price trends in terminal markets for a period of years; such a chart is also given for strawberries, later in the bulletin.

Part II covers Oranges (including Tangerines), Grapefruit, Pineapples and Strawberries. The same general data, as listed under the 17 headings shown above, are presented for each of these crops, and exports are included for citrus fruits.

Part III relates to five minor vegetable crops: Bunched Beets, Lima Beans, Bunched Carrots, Okra and Squash. Again the general data, as listed under the headings shown above, are given for each of these products, with the exception that no data are available on acreage or on distribution of these five crops.

This is a valuable compendium of useful information, and doubtless is extensively used by Florida growers and shippers.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. RECENT NEWS ON EASTERN SHORE BERRIES AND POTATOES

V. H. Nicholson wrote as follows in a letter of June 1 from Pocomoke City, Md.:-

"Movement of Eastern Shore strawberries has been fairly heavy. During the last seven days, the truck movement has amounted to over 95,000 crates. Freight and express shipments during the same period amounted to over 250 car-lots. On the basis of 290 crates to a car, the truck movement was equivalent to 330 car-lots or about 57% of the total movement.

"The heaviest shipments of the season were expected today, but rain has been falling since noon and the movement will probably be lighter than was anticipated. It now appears that the peak movement was last Saturday, when 130 cars were shipped by freight and express and 6,002 crates by truck.

"Most of the berries have been coming from Virginia and Maryland, but Delaware is expected to become fairly active this week. If weather conditions are favorable, the Eastern Shore of Virginia will continue shipping another week, Maryland probably two weeks and the Delaware season may last three weeks. However, if the weather turns hot and clear, the season will be cut much shorter in both Maryland and Delaware. Present indications are that the crop in both those States will not exceed that of last spring.

"The potato crop has been getting about the right amount of rain, but several fields were showing blight a few days ago. While most of the affected fields seem to be recovering, growers say that yields on such fields will be light. A few estimate that the blight has cut the Eastern Shore crop as much as 25%, but I doubt very much whether it will amount to a small fraction of that figure. Present indications are for a crop that will exceed that of last season, which amounted to nearly 20,000 carloads.

"First cars of the season are expected to move from around Cape Charles the last of this week or the first of next, but the movement will not become very active until around June 12, according to present indications. It now appears that there will be a fairly heavy movement of Eastern Shore potatoes during the week of June 15 and that the shipping season will overlap considerably with the North Carolina movement."

2b. CROP NOTES FROM WESTERN WASHINGTON

T. R. Hall sent the following report from Seattle on May 29:-

"Lettuce cutting is general throughout the Kent-Auburn-Sumner district and indications point to a daily movement between 25 and 35 cars, over the week-end, from Puget Sound billing stations. The harvesting of a rather large acreage in Snohomish County will probably not begin until about June 10. There are also a few limited areas east of Lake Washington, which will be ready after June 1.

"The early lettuce crop has developed under very favorable weather conditions. Rainfall during May has been below normal, but nights have generally been cool and there have been some cloudy days. Buyers covering the territory report the solidity of many fields about as good as they have known for western Washington lettuce; but growers, particularly those with early patches on light soils, have had trouble with tipburn and some slime development. However, quality seems to be showing improvement.

"The few cars that have met requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade have been snapped up with eagerness around $2 per crate; while most shipments grading 75% to 85% U.S. No. 1 have been taken with less avidity. A general f.o.b. cash-track range of $1.75-$2 has prevailed throughout the week. Early in the week, sizes were heavy to 5 dozens, but now they are nearly equally divided between 4 and 5 dozens.

"Green peas from local areas are claiming some attention from shippers. Supplies reaching the Seattle market will soon be sufficient for local demand, and the first car is expected to move early next week. Quality is excellent and growers are entering the season with considerable optimism.

"The peak harvesting of Puget Sound strawberries will undoubtedly occur within the next few days. There has been an unusually good demand for the fresh fruit, and barreling plants are in a position to take any surplus, so as to forestall a glut of the market. Western Washington carlot shipments are negligible because local demand uses all offerings. The Clark Seedling variety, grown in the lower Yakima Valley, is better adapted to shipment and those berries are going into Montana and the Canadian provinces."

3b. MANATEE TOMATO SITUATION VERY DISCOURAGING

A letter of June 1 from R. M. Peterson, at Bradenton, Fla., gives the following news on tomatoes and watermelons:-

"The Manatee tomato market has gone from bad to worse, with lugs reaching the low price of 65¢ last Friday. This covers the 6x6 and larger sizes, and what few 6x7 size were sold brought less than packing charges. This means that many growers received nothing for the tomatoes harvested Friday and Saturday, and less than picking-costs during the fore part of the week. Nevertheless, the shipments last week totaled 364 cars, which was slightly more than for the previous week. It is difficult to estimate the shipments for the current week, but most growers give the impression that they will continue to harvest their crop, with the hope of getting something out of it, and it seems likely that the shipments will amount to 150 cars or more, in spite of the low prices. The quality has improved considerably, but most stock is still showing puffiness.

"The watermelon crop in the Leesburg district will be rather light this season. The first car is expected out today or tomorrow, but the movement will be very light this week, with possibly 5 to 10 cars shipped next Saturday. Loadings will possibly increase quite rapidly next week."

4b. SOUTHERN TEXAS POTATO PROSPECTS

M. G. Longino, of the San Antonio office, sent the following telegram on June 3:- "Estimate remaining carlot Texas potatoes at 700 cars that are matured now. Several hundred cars of young stock, needing rain, are yet to mature. However, hope practically given up for the late crop."

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THURSDAY IS THE LAST DAY

Thursday is the last day each week for receipt of material for the current issue of the Division Letter. Please mail all letters or changes for field-station lists so that the material will reach the editor by Thursday.

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5b. LATEST REPORT ON TEXAS ONIONS

Just before closing the Crystal City field station on May 27, R. G. Risser sent the following report on onions:-

"One of the unfortunate features of the Texas season has been the large amount of decay in onions, due chiefly to the wet weather. One grower remarked that he had never before shipped such poor stock. Many of the onions have been left in the fields, as they were considered too poor to be shipped. The markets have been quoting much stock of inferior condition, and yesterday's report showed some lots selling in Chicago for as low as 25¢ per crate. With onions in such bad condition, consumption has probably been curtailed materially.

"Producers in the Winter Garden section have been very much discouraged by the combination of unfavorable conditions this season. It is only natural that they should contemplate reduced plantings next year. Growers in other sections of southern Texas may plant liberally, however. There is talk of extensive onion plantings in the country between Corpus Christi and San Antonio."

The following additional report was written by Mr. Risser from the Laredo field station on May 30:-

"The close of the 1931 shipping season for Bermuda onions is almost at hand in the producing districts of southern Texas. With favorable weather for hauling during the first and middle of the past week, loadings of the late crop have been under way quite actively, with the result that supplies in shipping sections are becoming greatly reduced and remaining stocks are reported as quite limited.

"Up to May 30, Texas' shipments had reached 4,350 cars. Many shippers had set 4,500 cars as the final total for the season's movement, and it now appears that they were not greatly mistaken, although it will be generally admitted that the actual field production was considerably larger.

"One of the favorable developments of the past week has been the reduction of track holdings in the 12 important markets. On Thursday, May 28, track holdings in these terminals had been reduced to 194 cars, the lowest point since May 12. The peak of the season's track holdings was on May 19 with 427 cars. The peak of shipments, which usually occurs in April, developed on May 15 this season. About 218 cars were billed from Texas points on that day.

"Another favorable development of the last week in May has been the loading of more cars of the U.S. No. 1 grade. The crop at Eagle Pass has been largely responsible for this condition. Rains the latter part of the week have interfered with field operations and are expected to reduce shipments somewhat."

6b. TOMATOES AND CARROTS IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

"Imperial Valley continues with 2 or 3 cars of tomatoes a day, going mostly to points in California. During the past few days, Los Angeles truck receipts have ranged mostly 15,000 to 20,000 crates per day, with 26,500 on June 1. Lugs sold at 60¢-85¢ in Los Angeles today. Portland and Seattle are being supplied mostly with Texas stock.

"A few cars of carrots continue to move. Of the 7 cars shipped last Friday, 3 were billed to Canadian points." - (from A. E. Prugh, June 1)

7b. IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING IMPERIAL VALLEY CROPS

On Monday, June 1, A. E. Prugh wrote the following letter from Brawley, Calif.:-

"The peak day of shipments from the covered melon acreage came one day earlier than expected, - May 25, with 394 cars. Shippers thought movement on the 26th would go slightly above that figure, but the cumulative effect of cool nights caused a drop to 275 cars on the 26th. After decreasing to 228 on the 27th, there was an increase to 331 cars the 31st of May, but only 290 cars are ordered for June 1. Honey Dews have been ripening slowly, with 11 straight cars out May 31. Total movement may hold around 300 to 325 a day for the next 10 days, as Honey Dews and Honey Balls are expected to take up the slack caused by lighter movement from the covered cantaloupe acreage. On account of late planting of the uncovered acreage, cantaloupe shipments should not start to climb until the middle of this month.

"The first car of Perfectos went out on May 30 and brought $1.25 cash f.o.b. per standard 45, when the market on HB's was $1.10. The Perfectos have a wonderful flavor this year.

"After the f.o.b. market reached $1 and with warmer weather at some points in the East, the demand improved. Today (June 1) the price is back to $1.25. New York advanced this morning under fairly heavy arrivals. Our distribution table shows a heavy movement to a few large markets, and, while smaller markets are represented now and then, they are not receiving many cars. Perhaps with warmer weather this condition will improve. A price in Philadelphia last week of $2.25 per standard crate nets back here only about 50¢ to the shipper. This covered acreage now moving costs $1.50 per standard crate to place on board cars. F.o.b. prices on May 31 for the past few years are as follows:

1931:	$1.10-$1.15	1927:	$2.50-$2.75
1930:	$1.60-$1.75	1926:	the mildew year,
1929:	$2.75		$1.60-$1.75
1928:	$1.60-$1.75	1925:	$2.00-$2.25

"The price of 'choice' or 'ripes' has been down around the price for 'fancy.' This price is governed considerably by conditions in Los Angeles. Truck movement to Los Angeles has been running 6,000 to 10,000 crates per day. Trucks also run to Phoenix and San Diego.

"The Honey Dew market has been holding around $1.25 per crate the past few days. Only 11 straight cars moved on May 31, and 3 straight Honey Balls. The first Honey Balls in New York have been selling high.

"A few Jap melons are going to Los Angeles by truck. This spotted melon has a good flavor, but very few move East. The flavor is similar to that of the Persian melon.

"Imperial Valley temperatures have been running 107° to 109° maximum since Friday, May 29, reaching 110° today, but the minimum last night was down to 68° compared with 79° Saturday night. If some of this weather could be moved back East, it would no doubt increase the demand for cantaloupes.

"Watermelon shipments increased to 25 cars on May 31 and we are now issuing a watermelon report. One car has been billed as far east as Kansas City. Yesterday's distribution was to points in California, Arizona, Canada, North Dakota, Montana, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and New Mexico. The price today is down to $27.50-$30 bulk per ton, with a fairly good demand. The Los Angeles market today was $42.50-$45 per ton."

8b. A LARGE CROP OF POTATOES IN WHARTON-EAGLE LAKE DISTRICT

M. G. Longino, of the San Antonio office, sent the following report in a letter dated May 26:-

"Shipments of Bliss Triumph potatoes from the Wharton-Eagle Lake district of Texas became rather heavy last week, when over 400 cars moved. All diggings at Sugarland were suspended for the week, in hope that Alabama and Louisiana would pass their peak. Reliable trade sources estimate that the yield will not exceed 50 bushels per acre of marketable stock, but this will still give the district more than 2,000 cars.

"Quality of the potatoes is not the best, as scab is present in nearly all fields, some being badly infected. Growers and shippers have decided not to try to make a strictly U.S. No. 1 grade except for size. All stock, however, that is deeply pitted with scab is thrown out, as the potatoes pass over the 1 7/8-inch screened grader. On account of the low level of the market, no stock under 1 7/8 inches will be shipped unless an unexpected price improvement occurs.

"It is expected that the deal will continue until about June 15. Home-grown and northern-grown seed was planted and the latter is being harvested at present. The home-grown seed is considerably later and will not be matured until June 5 to 15. The vines are still growing nicely but will need another rain in a few days to fully develop the potatoes. If the rain does not come, it is expected that the tonnage will be decreased considerably.

"Prices for the week ranged 80¢-$1 per 100-pound sack, according to quality, f.o.b. cash track. On May 24, the prominent shippers and growers held a meeting and agreed to prorate the daily movement. Sugarland is using Government inspection on all cars and they were asked to quote 10¢ per sack more, so that the other points could stay in line.

"The Cobbler crop near San Antonio is being harvested this week and stored on the farms. It is almost impossible to sell except on the local market, and the potatoes have to be dug. Quality is very good and the yield is large. Several hundred cars could be shipped out, in addition to what is consumed locally, if the market would justify.

"Tomatoes are moving freely from the Yoakum district. Many small towns are loading out car-lots for the first time. Prices have been satisfactory so far, at 2½¢ to 3¢ per pound to the grower for U.S. No. 1 stock. Quality is very good from all fertilized fields, and the tomatoes are fairly smooth, large and well formed. Stock that was not fertilized is puffy, but the volume is not large. This is a coming tomato section in Texas and may grow into one of our largest producing areas. However, no irrigation is available and the crop must depend on rainfall."

9b. TOMATO PROSPECTS IN MISSISSIPPI

"The condition of the tomato crop in central Mississippi is very good and all indications point to a bumper crop. At a meeting today, June 1, of the Mississippi Vegetable Shippers' Association, an organization which controls 75% to 90% of the tomatoes, it was agreed that no cars would be loaded until June 9. However, it is probable that some of the independent shippers will load a few cars the last of this week." -(from J. B. Owens)

-- IF YOUR D.L. IS EVER ADDRESSED INCORRECTLY, ADVISE THE EDITOR PROMPTLY.--

10b. MANY POTATOES AND LOW PRICES IN ALABAMA

W. D. Hull sent the following information from Mobile in a letter of June 1:-

"This year's potato crop in Alabama will be outstanding in many ways, having more days when shipments exceeded 175 cars, large yields, excellent quality, and lowest prices of any season in the last five years.

"Early last week the market assumed a firmer tendency, with a few cars selling as high as $1.25 per 100-pound sack of U.S. No. 1 Bliss Triumphs. Every one had hopes that the market would go higher, a few operators being so optimistic as to state that potatoes would be selling for $1.50 before the end of the week. But heavier shipments from Louisiana and Texas, together with the opening of the South Carolina season, precluded all possibility of any permanent strengthening of the Alabama market. As the week advanced, buyers became more cautious about stocking-up, in view of the double holiday over the week-end, and f.o.b. prices declined to $1-$1.10. There was sufficient demand, however, to take care of daily loadings, so very few cars were rolled unsold.

"From the standpoint of yield, the season's crop is quite satisfactory, many growers reporting yields of more than 100 bushels to the acre. As the crop becomes more mature, the skins show less tendency to 'feather' and bruising is less apparent. On the whole, local buyers and shippers are well pleased with the quality of this year's crop.

"Demand for Alabama cucumbers has been very slow. Cool weather in northern markets has been a limiting factor since the season commenced. Prices to growers have been around 25¢ per bushel for No. 1's and 10¢ for No. 2's. As some cars have sold in terminal markets for little more than freight charges and cost of packaging, the deal so far has not been a profitable one to the grower or shipper. Shipments from Alabama last week were 125 cars, with indications that this week's movement will be heavier."

11b. LARGE CROP OF MISSISSIPPI CABBAGE FINISHED

J. B. Owens wrote as follows from Crystal Springs in a letter of June 1:-

"The cabbage season in Mississippi will be practically finished by the end of this week. Worms, age, and large sizes have lowered the quality to what might be termed very ordinary, and the demand for this kind of stock is poor. Movement for this week will be about 75 to 100 straight cars, but practically all mixed cars will contain some cabbage. With shipments for the country during the past week down to almost half those of the week previous, it was thought that the f.o.b. market would strengthen. But, instead, the market here weakened still further, due no doubt to the inferior quality.

"Loadings of snap beans are increasing, but the movement from this section will be very light. Very few straight cars have been shipped. However, practically all mixed cars contain some beans. The demand for wax beans has been fairly good up to the present time, but the market is weaker today, due to the increased haulings. Very few sales have been reported today. Shippers are asking $1-$1.25 for stringless and $1.20-$1.35 for wax beans in mixed cars, f.o.b. usual terms.

"The demand for beets and carrots has been very light the entire season, with practically all stock being moved in mixed cars on either a straight consignment or joint-account basis."

12b. INTERESTING CROP NOTES FROM UTAH

L. S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, sent the following report under date of May 26:-

"Frost-damage in Utah should be past for this year and the outlook for this year's crops can be judged with more certainty. Light frosts, however, occurred last week in spots and some damage resulted to tender vegetables, especially beans and tomatoes. Taking the State as a whole, the damage from spring frosts has been light, both to fruits and vegetables.

"Tomatoes for canning purposes are estimated at about 7,000 acres. The plants are getting a good start and look good at this time. The acreage planted for green shipment is about double that of last year.

"Onions have suffered from bad wind-storms and dry weather, and many patches do not have good stands, while others are not thrifty. Estimates indicate a reduction of 35% to 50% below last year's production.

"The cherry crop is spotted but, taken as a whole, is very light, especially the Bing and Lambert varieties. Shipments probably will not be more than 25 or 30 cars from the State. Pears, which some time ago indicated a full crop, have since suffered from poor pollination, and only a sprinkling of fruit is set. Peaches escaped frost in most sections and, while a heavy drop is expected, the prospects are for a large crop."

13b. GOOD PRICES FOR CALIFORNIA CELERY

The following letter came from W. L. Jackson, of the Los Angeles office, under date of May 27:-

"The southern California celery market continues to maintain a strong position, with prospects of good prices to the close of the deal early in July. Lighter shipments have been an important factor in the good prices obtaining this year. The total movement during May was in the neighborhood of 500 cars, compared with 728 for the same month last year. Present indications are for shipments of not over 500 cars during June. This may be compared with 709 cars for June of 1930. Total shipments this season will be materially under those of last year. This is accounted for primarily by the smaller acreage planted and also by the heavy culling necessary during April, when most mature fields were running heavy to seeders.

"Present high prices have encouraged growers to harvest the crop as fast as the patches mature. This has made for an orderly movement of the crop. Indications are that daily loadings will be in approximately the same volume during June as those for the month of May. This should prevent any heavy daily loadings or peak shipments between now and the close of the deal.

"Quality is generally good, with most stock grading 85% U.S. No. 1 or better. Some fields were damaged to a limited extent by worms, when wet weather interfered with the spraying program.

"The f.o.b.-usual-terms market held firmly during the past week at $4.75-$5 on 24-inch crates, with an occasional car as high as $5.25. The 22-inch crates have ranged about 25¢ under the price of 24-inch stock. These prices are $1.50-$1.75 per crate higher than those during the same period last year."

POTATO SHIPMENTS have been very heavy recently, amounting to more than 1,200 cars last Wednesday.

14b. TOMATOES AND GREEN CORN ACTIVE IN RIO GRANDE VALLEY

W. D. Googe sent the following letter from Brownsville, Texas, on May 31:-

"The lower Rio Grande Valley tomato movement reached its peak during the past week, loadings on Tuesday, May 26, being 182 cars which moved out Wednesday morning. This was not only the peak day of the season, but the Valley's record for a single day. Prices at the close of the week represented a net decline of 10¢-15¢ per lug, usual-terms sales, Friday and Saturday, being reported at mostly $1-$1.10 for best sizes. Rolling cars were sold at a wide range of prices, some of which were reported as low as 75¢. Although a large portion of shipments run mostly 6x7 and 6x6, a greater percentage of 6x6 pack and larger is being reported. Favorable weather has resulted in a marked improvement in quality. Shippers expect two or three heavy days next week, after which shipments will drop off rapidly. The Yoakum section will probably be at its peak during the coming week, and by June 8 the East Texas deal will begin if weather conditions continue favorable. Some estimate that, during the next 10 days, the total Texas tomato movement will average between 125 and 150 cars daily. After several days of gloomy outlook, dealers were more cheerful at the end of the past week, as trading became more active. This was attributed to more favorable weather for consuming tomatoes in the large cities, and also to the better quality of stock being offered.

"The green corn deal in this section is approaching its peak, and shipments during the coming week are expected to average around 40 cars daily. The sections farther up the State, particularly that around Dilley, are expected to begin in a light way. However, most sections are late, as compared with the normal seasons, and no heavy movements from points outside the Valley are anticipated before the third week of June. Poor quality of early shipments from the Valley had a depressing influence on the prices, but, as the season advances, the damage from late frost becomes less apparent. Generally, the present shipments are of good quality."

15b. A DISAPPOINTING POTATO SEASON IN LOUISIANA

J. W. Coleman wrote as follows from New Orleans in a letter of June2:-

"Returns from the Louisiana potato crop this season are proving very disappointing to growers. Shipments to date have passed the 2,500-car mark, compared with a final total of 2,326 cars last season. Approximately 1,500 remain to be shipped and most of these cars will move by the middle of June. So far, there has been very little demand for No. 2 potatoes and this factor will have some bearing on the carlot shipments. Prices for U.S. No. 1 Bliss Triumphs reached a low mark on Monday when 100-pound sacks sold on an f.o.b.-usual-terms basis at 90¢.

"Many growers are storing their crop in sweet-potato kilns, in hope of better prices during July and August. Others are afraid the potatoes are not mature enough to hold up any length of time in this type of improvised storage and are selling their potatoes as fast as they can dig them.

"With the exception of strawberries, practically all Louisiana commodities have been selling at low prices this spring. Prospects are rather discouraging for the remainder of the shipping season."

(continued over)

In connection with the effort being made to market the smaller potatoes, Mr. Coleman sent a clipping from a local newspaper, which reads in part as follows:-

"Farmers from Lafourche, St. Mary and Terrebonne parishes met at the Houma courthouse tonight to discuss ways and means to sell direct to the housewives of New Orleans Irish potatoes grown in southern Louisiana, and thereby give employment to the unemployed of New Orleans.

"The objective was to establish a sale price in New Orleans of $1 per 100-pound sack of United States graded potatoes from one and a half to one and seven-eights inches, the only deduction to be made at New Orleans to be approximately eight cents a sack, which was to go to the unemployed men who assist in the sale of the potatoes.

"All trucks carrying the potatoes to New Orleans will display a large sign that will read: 'This truck carries potatoes grown by farmers and sold by special permits of the city of New Orleans with the assistance of the city's unemployed'."

16b. CORRECTION OF "GOD - GOS" PAGE OF CODE (Effective June 12)

The phrase "GODIQ" means "Carlot sales to outside points, Kansas City basis." Effective June 12, the words "Kansas City" will be dropped, so that the phrase can be used for any city. It will then read:

GODIQ - Carlot sales to outside points, ------* basis

At bottom of the page, insert this footnote:-

* When decoding, insert name of city at head of wire.

17b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

Two additional summaries of 1930 shipping seasons have been issued by the Washington office:-

"Marketing Colorado Cantaloupes, 1930 Season," By J. B. Owens.

"Marketing Eastern Shore Cantaloupes, 1930 Season," by V.H. Nicholson.

The Kansas City office has issued a report or summary; "Marketing Potatoes in Kaw Valley of Kansas, Orrick District of Missouri, and Arkansas and Oklahoma, 1930 Season," by R. E. Corbin. This is illustrated by a price chart and distribution map.

The Rochester office has published a summary on "Marketing Western New York Lettuce, 1930 Season," by A. L. Thomas. A map shows the shipping sections.

The San Francisco office has issued a summary on "Marketing California Pears, 1930 Season," by C. J. Hansen and O. W. Holmes. It contains two valuable charts, in addition to the statistical matter.

18b. SEND THE EDITOR COPIES OF SPECIAL RELEASES

We desire to list in the D.L. all special commodity summaries or other important special releases, issued by branch offices. The only way to be sure that such reports or summaries will be mentioned in the D.L. is to send the editor a personal copy. Some offices fail to do this, and it is only by chance that the editor happens to find a copy of the summary in the Washington office.

19b. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ARGENTINE REGULATIONS

In connection with Par. 2a in last week's D.L., the Foreign Agricultural Service Division has called attention to the fact that, even if American fruit is shipped to Argentina in barrels or bushel baskets, it must be individually wrapped, in the same fashion as western apples are wrapped, and the wrappers must be stamped with the name of grower or packer and with the country of origin. Full details are given in special report "F.S.:A-374, dated May 8, by the Foreign Service Division.

Attention is also invited to the fact that all fresh fruit imported by Argentina carries a 32% ad-valorem duty, except oranges and bananas, according to regulations dated February 23, 1931.

20b. EARLY CROP OF GREEN PEAS IN OREGON A FAILURE

J. D. Hamilton wired as follows from Portland on May 29:- "Oregon green peas, early crop, almost a complete failure, and Telephones for June shipment less than 50% crop, account severe windstorms a month ago, followed by dry weather. Vine-growth stunted and pods generally small."

21b. 1930 APPLE STATISTICS FOR STATE OF IDAHO

In answer to an inquiry from one of the branch offices, L. G. Schultz, Supervising Inspector for Idaho, gave the following report on apple inspections in that State during the year 1930:-

Shipping-Point Inspections of Idaho Apples, Calendar Year 1930

Variety	Cars	Per Cent of Total
Jonathan	2,213	40%
Rome Beauty	964	18%
Winesap	812	15%
Delicious	361	7%
Various and mixed	1,153	20%
	5,503	100%

Total shipments from Idaho that year were about 6,780 cars, thus making the inspected cars about 81% of the total. Apples in baskets were 85% of the total, boxes 7% and bulk shipments 8%. Mr. Schultz adds:- "It is interesting to note that the percentage of boxed apples shipped each year has shown a gradual decrease since 1925."

22b. A SPECIAL SUMMARY ON GREEN PEAS

J. D. Hamilton, of the Portland office, has published an 8-paged mimeographed summary entitled: "Marketing Northwestern Green Peas." it relates largely to the 1930 season, although statistics are presented for previous years also. Prices are given by days for Portland, Chicago and New York City. Copies can be had directly from the Portland office, 610 Lewis Bldg.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	July 11
			W-melons	June 1	July 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS., City Hall	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs.	May 5	June 6
			Tomatoes	June 8	July 3
MOBILE, ALA.** Post Office Bldg.	924	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	May 11	June 13
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.	May 21	June 20
			Potatoes	June 12	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 6	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MONETT, MO.** First Natl. Bank Bldg.	857	W. G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 26	June 13
MT. OLIVE, N. C.**	810A	R. L. Sutton	Potatoes	June 4	June 27
ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.**	810	H. F. Willson	Potatoes	June 3	June 27
JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS**	811	W. D. Googe	Tomatoes	June 8	July 3
LEESBURG, FLA.**	912	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 8	June 27
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 1

The following stations closed on dates indicated:

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Cabbage	Jan. 5	May 8
			Spinach	Jan. 5	Mar. 7
			Beets	Jan. 5	Apr. 30
			Carrots	Jan. 6	May 13
			Beans	Mar. 20	May 14
			Potatoes	Mar. 30	May 16
			Onions	Apr. 6	May 12
			Tomatoes	Apr. 23	June 5
LAREDO, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	801	R. G. Risser	Onions	Apr. 6	June 4
BRADENTON, FLA.** Pier Bldg.	850	R. M. Peterson	Vegs.	Apr. 13	June 5

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Kansas City

A. M. McDowell in St. Louis
R. G. Risser en route to Phoenix, Ariz.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. INTERESTING REPORT ON PUGET SOUND LETTUCE

In a letter of June 1 from Yakima, Wash., F. E. Bailey sent the following information regarding lettuce:-

"The Puget Sound lettuce season got under way a little faster than last year, with as high as 31 cars shipped from points between Sumner and Seattle during one 24-hour period in the last week of May. Usually it is the first week in June before 30 cars a day are reached.

"Weather conditions have been unfavorable for lettuce as well as other commodities, and the quality of Puget Sound lettuce is not as good as it has been at the start of the past two shipping seasons. Considerable slimy decay and tipburn is being encountered and the solidity of many crops is poor. Usually Washington ships its best lettuce during the month of June but, unless there is a change soon, the quality for this month will be somewhat below average. In July, when the center of lettuce activity moves north of Seattle, we expect to find poorer-quality stock going out.

"One point of interest in connection with the June lettuce movement this year is the tendency for operations to center around Kent and Auburn, Kent being the largest lettuce shipping point in the early section of the Sound country. A number of operators, who in the past made their headquarters in Seattle, are this year establishing temporary residences at Kent and Auburn.

"Another interesting development is the use by Sawdey & Hunt of safety refrigerator or Silica Gel System cars. Last year, this firm loaded one of these cars as an experiment. This year they are loading all they can obtain. In order to get this service, which is available only on the Northern Pacific Railway, they have given up their old packing-house on the Union Pacific, Milwaukee Railway and have moved into a new packing-house just built on the Northern Pacific, Great Northern right-of-way. The Silica Gel cars do away with the need for top icing of the load, since the refrigeration pipes extend over the full length of the lading.

"Sawdey & Hunt are this year, for the first time, requesting Federal-State inspection on their shipments. In past years, some inspections have been made on their cars, but these were upon the application of the carrier.

"When I was in Kent on Friday, the prices quoted were $1.80-$2 f.o.b. for 80% to U.S. No. 1 quality stock. Possibly one car out of five was making a No. 1 grade, the others grading in percentages from 85% down to 60%.

"I understand that warm weather has wound-up lettuce shipments from Pasco, which is in the south-central part of the State and is generally considered the hottest point in Washington in summer. A few cars of peas are being shipped from Pasco now."

2c. DELAWARE TO INSPECT STRAWBERRIES AT SHIPPING POINT

Federal-State shipping-point inspection on strawberries at Selbyville, Delaware, began about June 1. W. T. Derickson, Director of the State Bureau of Markets, says that growers and buyers were so well pleased with the service last year that they requested its re-establishment this season. Shipments began approximately two weeks later than last year.

3c. HEAVY INSPECTION WORK SCHEDULED ON GEORGIA PEACHES

In a letter of June 2 from Macon, Ga., the following information on peach prospects was given by O. G. Strauss:-

"The peach line-up looks very good, and it has every indication of being one of the largest inspection deals we ever had.

"As you know, last season we inspected 4,057 cars of peachs and we now have applications for 6,233 cars, with a number of growers not yet heard from. I feel sure we will exceed 8,000 cars and probably come near the 10,000 total.

"There is practically nothing moving this week. The later part of the week, they will move Uneedas, and Early Rose will start the middle of next week. The Exchange estimate of Uneedas is 290 cars, miscellaneous early 59, and Early Rose 860.

"We probably wont inspect over 35% of the Uneedas and miscellaneous early varieties, as they are so scattered, but should get 50% to 60% of the Early Rose. After that I believe we will inspect 70% of the movement.

"Starting between June 20 and 25 will be Hileys, and from then on it will be one busy time. From June 1 to 20 or 25, there will be only about 1,500 cars, but between June 20 and July 25, there will be 8,000 or 9,000, these figures being based on the Exchange' estimate of 13,500 cars. The quality seems to be good.

"It is estimated that 7,950 cars of Elbertas will move during the month of July. Favorable weather can change these dates by a few days."

4c. ALABAMA NO. 2 GRADE FOR CUCUMBERS

In a letter of May 28 from Foley, Ala., J. A. Marks says that the shippers have, for the past two years, been requesting a No. 2 grade for their cucumbers. He enclosed a copy of this grade as it has been drawn up for the benefit of Alabama shippers:-

ALABAMA STANDARDS FOR SLICING CUCUMBERS (1931).

GRADES

ALABAMA FANCY - Same as U.S. Fancy.

ALABAMA U.S. No. 1 - Same as U.S. No. 1.

ALABAMA No. 2 - Shall consist of cucumbers which are not badly misshapen and which are fresh, firm, sufficiently mature for slicing purposes but not full grown or ripe and which are free from decay and from serious damage caused by dirt, freezing, mosaic or other disease, insects or mechanical or other means. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, the minimum length of the cucumbers shall be not less than four and one-half inches.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Same as U.S. grades except as follows:

"Not badly misshapen" means that the cucumbers shall not be so badly curved, pointed or constricted as to seriously affect the appearance or cause excessive waste in preparation for use.

"Free from serious damage" means that any injury from the causes mentioned shall not seriously affect the appearance, edible or shipping quality.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	June 30
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	June 10
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, P.O. Box 166, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	June 15
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
ARKANSAS AND MISSOURI:	G. W. Winfrey, First Natl. Bank Bldg. Monett, Mo.	Strawberries Vegetables	Apr. 27 May 10	June 13 July 1
NORTH CAROLINA:	G. R. Warren, c/o State Div. of Markets, Raleigh, N.C.	Potatoes	June 1	June 20
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Strawberries Vegetables	May 4 June 1	June 6 July 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	July 15
VIRGINIA:	H. H. Henderson, 304 Southern Produce Building, Norfolk, Va.	Potatoes	June 1	June 25
	Robert Bier, Cape Charles, Va.	Potatoes	June 8	July 10

Reports on southern Indiana strawberries can be had from J. E. Dickerson, at the Indianapolis office.

5c. A GOOD REPORT ON INDIANA INSPECTIONS

J. E. Dickerson, Supervising Inspector for Indiana, has submitted a very interesting report of the shipping-point inspection work in that State for the 1930-31 season. It is published below, without the usual quotation marks:-

We are enclosing herewith a tabulation of the results of the onion inspection work in Indiana for the 1930-31 season, along with a comparison of the results for the three previous seasons. The deal this season was characterized by:

1. An unusually large crop of better than average quality and size, in spite of the excessively dry weather over a large part of the district.

2. A much heavier movement than usual of stock in August and early September, with correspondingly smaller shipments in November and December.

3. An excessively low price to the grower. In many instances, prices received were less than the cost of production and, in some instances in the early spring, many onions were sold at a price very little above storage charges. One exception was the favorable prices received for white boilers early in the season. The deal was equally disastrous to the local buyers.

4. A heavy decrease in the shipments of "1-1/4 inch minimum" cars.

5. An unusual number of cars failing to grade on account of staining and sunburn, especially on white onions, but with a decrease of cars being off-grade account of freezing-injury or decay.

6. A further increase of the use of the 50-pound sacks and a corresponding decrease in 100-pound sacks of all types.

7. An increase in demand for the revision of the onion grades, especially the boiler grade, resulting in a meeting of leading onion shippers and Department officials being called at Toledo, Ohio, to discuss the proposed revision.

8. Several large growers shipping their own stock, usually with disastrous results, they not realizing that local prices offered were all their onions were worth.

9. Heavy wastage in sorting in the early spring, due mainly to low prices but also to a mild winter, resulting in more sprouted onions than usual.

10. More onions than usual held until April, some growers and operators still hoping to realize costs on their holdings.

Federal-State Shipping-Point Inspections in Indiana

Product	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
Onions	946 cars	1,301 cars	2,294 cars	2,935 cars
Peaches	126 "	283 "	326 "	(No crop)
Strawberries	- "	- "	48 "	27 "
Tomatoes (cannery)	2,365 tons	8,234 tons	23,000 tons	85,000 tons

Michigan onions (under supervision of Indianapolis office) 247 cars

Mr. Dickerson also submitted a detailed tabulation of onion inspections, classified as to grade and showing the various defects, etc. Below are a few figures from this detailed report:-

Classification of Indiana Onions as to Grade, Four Seasons:

	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
U.S. No. 1 Grade....	696	601	1,461	2,254
U.S. No. 1, 1¼" min..	68	371	367	153
Total cars inspected:	946	1,301	2,294	2,935

6c. NAMES TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following names should be added alphabetically to the recent list of Past-Due Accounts:-

F. B. Todd and Sons, Lansing, Michigan.	$17.33
Kenneth R. Foster, Canterbury, N. H.	13.00

7c. SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN TEXAS

In a letter of May 31 from Harlingen, Texas, H. T. Longino reported that he has eight inspectors in the Yoakum district, inspecting tomatoes, and seven men in the Sugarland-Eagle Lake area, inspecting potatoes. Some of these men were about to be moved to points north of Yoakum, to handle tomatoes. The tomato shipping season in the lower Rio Grande Valley is nearly finished, and the inspection crew will gradually be transferred to the Jacksonville district in eastern Texas. Mr. Longino expects that there will be work in two districts of the State on watermelons and cantaloupes during July. Total Texas inspections this entire season may exceed 25,000 cars.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Butner returned to his desk this morning, after having spent several days in Chicago, conferring with inspectors. He also went to the Milwaukee office on Wednesday.

Robert Bier plans to go to Cape Charles, Va., on Sunday, from which point he will supervise the Eastern Shore potato inspections.

C. R. Newton, of the Regulatory Branch, is on annual leave from June 1 until about June 25. He planned to spend most of this time at Hot Springs, Ark.

R. R. Pailthorp is expected back in Washington this Saturday, June 6, after his western trip in the interest of standardization work.

R. G. Hill's investigational trip to North Carolina had to be postponed until next week, on account of unfavorable weather conditions in the blueberry shipping area.

H. H. Henderson, of the Norfolk office, is supervising the shipping-point inspection work on potatoes in the Norfolk section of Virginia.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

B. C. Boree expects to leave Washington next Monday for a 10 days' trip on which he will confer with representatives of this Division and with growers and shippers in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia, regarding the market-news work and crop prospects. He will stop at field stations and at the Atlanta office on this trip.

After closing the Brownsville field station of the Market News Service today, W. D. Googe will open the office at Jacksonville, Texas, on Monday, June 8, to issue tomato reports.

R. M. Peterson closes the office at Bradenton, Fla., today and will proceed at once to Leesburg, where he will issue watermelon reports.

R. E. Keller has reached Macon, Ga., and will begin the news service on peaches next Monday.

R. G. Risser closed the field station at Laredo, Texas, on Thursday, and is now en route to Phoenix, Arizona, where he will issue market reports on cantaloupes, beginning about June 25. He plans to take a short period of leave after arriving at Phoenix.

J. A. Marks requests that all mail in the future be sent to him at P.O. Box 166, instead of Foley Hotel, Foley, Ala., as long as he is supervising inspections in that State.

M. W. Baker, of the Columbus inspection office, was ill the last few days of this week, and B. H. Rowell went from Chicago to substitute for him. Mr. Baker hopes to return to duty on Monday, June 8.

V. V. Westgate, of the Omaha office, expects to leave on Sunday morning for Topeka, Kans., where he will spend several days on the Kaw Valley potato tour and in making plans for this season's shipping-point inspection work on Kansas potatoes. B. H. Rowell will go from Columbus on Sunday and substitute for Mr. Westgate at Omaha.

C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's office, spent Wednesday in Philadelphia in connection with the P.A.C. case of the American Fruit Growers, Inc., vs. F. C. Spadaro & Co.

On the Market Station Address List and the Inspection Station Address List, please change the office telephone at New Orleans from Raymond 1975 to Main 6980, Ext. 41.

All INSPECTORS should please note carefully Par. 18b and Par. 19b in this Division Letter. These items relate to inspectors as much as to market-news men.

Mrs. Elizabeth Beattie, of the Detroit office, was a visitor to the Washington office this week. She is on a vacation trip.

ALL EMPLOYEES should give heed to the notice appearing at bottom of page 355 of this Division Letter, about THURSDAY being the closing day for all material for the D.L.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 24 June 12, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ATTENDANCE ON HEARINGS UNDER P.A.C. ACT

Hearings held under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act naturally attract a good deal of attention and interest. Members of the Department's force have a proper interest in the workings of this law, even though they have no responsible part in its administration. However, our experience already shows that attendance on these formal hearings by market-news men and inspectors, who are not called as witnesses, is likely to be misunderstood and to create subsequent difficulties, particularly in the collection of market information.

The hearing is always held in the town where the person complained of is in business. Probably in a large majority of the cases, which come to public hearing, the respondent will be found to be in error in some respect. A hearing looking toward disciplinary action by the Secretary will not take place unless preliminary investigation indicates the probability of a violation of the Act which should be punished. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that in most of these hearings the respondent will be apprehensive and ill at ease. If, as a result of the hearing, he feels that punishment is impending, he is likely to become antagonistic toward all the representatives of the Bureau with whom he is in contact, especially those who have been present at the hearing and whom he will be inclined to regard as part of the force arrayed against him. The market-news men will be the first to feel this antagonism and their work will suffer most severely because of it.

Any licensee, who is subjected to disciplinary action or who receives unfavorable notoriety as the result of one of these public hearings, will be able to enlist the sympathies of some other members of produce row, and our market-news representative, through no fault of his own, may find himself deprived of useful sources of information. This situation has already arisen in one large market as the result of a case in which the Secretary's findings have not yet been announced. Market-news men and inspectors are therefore instructed not to attend any formal hearing or procedure under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, unless they are to be used as witnesses or unless by special permission from this office.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. STANDARD TRADE TERMS DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE.

Separate definitions for the terms "f.o.b.," "f.o.b. acceptance," and "f.o.b. acceptance final," for inclusion in proposed standard rules and definitions of trade terms under the 1930 P.A.C. Act were suggested by representatives of the produce and vegetable trade, meeting with officials of the Bureau at Washington, June 3. Trade representatives also suggested a definition for the term "suitable shipping condition." The Department's decision with regard to definitions of trade terms for inclusion in the rules and regulations under the Act will be announced at a later date.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. MORE NEWS ON PROGRESS OF EASTERN SHORE CROPS

In a letter of June 6 from Pocomoke City, Md., V. H. Nicholson sent the following additional report on Eastern Shore crops:-

"Present conditions indicate that the movement of strawberries from the Eastern Shore will be rather light during the remainder of the season. The movement around Marion and Princess Anne, Maryland, will be practically over by June 15. Movement from Pittsville, Maryland, and the Bridgeville and Shelbyville sections in Delaware will probably continue until June 20, although the crop in all three localities is lighter than last season. Continued warm weather, however, would shorten the season at practically all points. Prices have held at a rather high level all week.

"Weather conditions have been favorable for the development of a large crop of potatoes on the Eastern Shore this season. Most shippers estimate that there are as many potatoes as last season. Shipments from the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia during the 1930 season amounted to nearly 20,000 carlots. While there has been a slight decrease in acreage, indications are that the larger yield will more than offset the decreased acreage. There has been some damage from blight, but total damage will be considerably less than was at first expected."

2b. 1931 SEASON OPENING FOR COLORADO VEGETABLES

Bryce Morris sent the following information in a letter of June 6 from the Denver office:-

"Recent advices from the Western Slope indicate that the apple crop in the North Fork section, around Montrose and Delta, was not severely injured by the freeze late in May. This territory, lying at a considerably higher altitude than Palisade and Grand Junction, had a lower temperature than the latter-named places. All reports to date indicate a heavy crop of peaches for the Western Slope this season. The June drop probably will be heavy on account of no frost-damage thinning the heavy bloom.

"The first Colorado green peas and Iceberg lettuce were received by truck on the Denver market Friday and Saturday of this week. Next week will see liberal supplies, especially of peas, which will shut out West Coast stock.

"Growing conditions for crops in the State have been good recently, with light rains over most of the territory during the week. Recent advices from Loveland and Longmont indicate that the snowfall on Long's Peak and other tributary water-sheds is above normal for this time of year. This would indicate plenty of water for the 1931 season in northern Colorado."

3b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

During the past week, the Washington office issued a new summary: "Marketing North Carolina Peaches, 1930 Season," by R. E. Keller.

The San Francisco office has published an additional summary: "Marketing California Fresh Plums and Prunes, 1930 Season," by C. J. Hansen and O. W. Holmes.

4b. A DISCOURAGING CANTALOUPE SEASON IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

A. E. Prugh sent the following report from Brawley, Calif., on June 8:-

"Last Thursday, June 4, everyone expected cantaloupe shipments to decrease, but instead they increased from 226 on the 3rd to 255 the 4th, 283 the 5th; 328 the 6th and 319 the 7th. Total shipments including cantaloupes, Honey Dews, Honey Balls and mixed melons on June 6 were 431 cars. The cause of this unexpected increase was the late covered acreage yielding heavily on account of jumbo sizes. Picking had also started on the uncovered acreage that was planted before the rains in February. With 52,000 acres in the Valley, it is difficult to predict movement from one day to another.

"The f.o.b. cash price dropped to $1-$1.15 on the 6th, with some sales as low as 90¢/basis of standard 45's. Today, June 8, buyers are offering as low as 75¢, but the market apparently will be 85¢-$1.

"Standard 45's sold in New York today as low as $2. After deducting freight and commission, this would net back to the shipper about 30¢, and it costs at least $1.50 to grow, harvest and pack this covered acreage. The present deal is the worst marketing disaster ever experienced in the Valley. June 7 original billings of 348 cars to eastern markets showed movement to only 30 points. New York City has been getting 75 to 90 cars a day, according to our distribution table after 9th day diversions have been made.

"Recently there has been a good demand for precooled 'ripes' for shipment to eastern markets. These precooled, full-slip melons are fully matured when shipped, have their maximum sugar content and full flavor. I hear that one shipper has been shipping these melons to New York all season, and I note a few always quoted much higher on that market than the average quality. Today I noticed Detroit quoted precooled melons 50¢-75¢ higher. With f.o.b. price on half-slips or 'fancy' melons Saturday $1-$1.15, the 'ripe' market was $1.20-$1.25. In some cases the shipper paid the precooling charge of $25 and sometimes the buyer paid it. No doubt next year precooling will increase, if any shippers remain in the Valley after this deal.

"Honey Dews and Honey Balls have not come on very rapidly; in fact there was a decrease in shipments from the 6th to 7th. Nights have been cool, with a minimum down to 65° on the 8th, and from the 4th to the 7th the mamimum has been around 90°. This is quite a drop from 109° the last few days in May. Honey Balls have been selling mostly at $2.25 f.o.b., standard-45 basis in straight and mixed cars. Honey Dews ranged 75¢-$1, according to ripeness and sizes. They are selling at a wide range of prices in New York.

"Watermelon shipments increased to 70 cars on June 6. The f.o.b. price today is $15-$18 per ton on 14-18 pound average. A week ago the range was $27.50-$30. Distribution has already extended to 90 markets, mostly in western and Pacific Coast States and Canada, although a few cars have gone to Minneapolis, St. Paul, Kansas City, Omaha and Lincoln. The late Florida and Texas season has permitted these cars to move that far east. The Klondikes are cutting good.

"Tomato movement is expected to be over this week. About 6 cars went out Saturday and 2 Sunday. About 22,700 crates and lugs arrived in Los Angeles today by truck from Imperial, Coachella and Orange County. The market there broke to 50¢-60¢ for 5x5 and 5x6 lugs.

"A few cars of carrots continue to move; 4 cars out the 6th. Some carrot markets showed strength last week.

"Last week a few Thompson Seedless grapes were picked. These grapes will probably move in car-lots next week."

5b. NORTH CAROLINA POTATO MOVEMENT BECOMING ACTIVE

In view of the fact that North Carolina is now the leading State in shipments of potatoes, with 672 cars on Wednesday, the following letter of June 8 from H. F. Willson, at Elizabeth City, is of interest:-

"The North Carolina potato movement is well started and every indication points to a record yield per acre.

"The present outlook is for f.o.b. prices which will average less than one-half of those of a year ago. In 1930, the price range for the first week was $4.25-$5, f.o.b. usual terms, for cloth-top stave barrels, while this season the range of prices for a corresponding period in the Mount Olive section and southern part of the State has been $1.75-$2. There is keen competition in all of the midwestern markets, as both Alabama and Louisiana are shipping heavily.

"Every effort is being made to at least curtail North Carolina movement until South Carolina is out of the way. Apparently the opportune time for this State to move the bulk of its potatoes will be in the period from June 10 to 20, or until Virginia is well started. If Arkansas and Oklahoma are a little late, it will aid materially in providing an outlet in the middle-western States. Active movement in Elizabeth City section will not begin until the latter part of this week."

6b. POTATO NEWS FROM MT. OLIVE SECTION, NORTH CAROLINA

R. L. Sutton wrote in part as follows from the field station at Mt. Olive on June 9:-

"Marketing of the potato crop from southern and eastern North Carolina was somewhat delayed in getting under way. The digging in the district around Mt. Olive is still in its earlier stages, the bulk of the volume originating in the southern part of the State, around Aurora and Beaufort. Shippers at this point have been urging the growers to prolong the digging of their crops until the heavy volume from South Carolina has moved. F.o.b. prices have been very unsatisfactory, - so much so that the growers did not need much urging to hold off for a while, hoping that conditions will be improved in the near future. Fields in this section appear to be in excellent condition. The vines are healthy and abundant and in most cases still green."

7b. ALABAMA POTATOES ABOUT FINISHED

W. D. Hull sent the following letter from Mobile on June 8:-

"Alabama has shipped over 3,800 cars of potatoes. The movement this week will put the season total well over the 4,000-mark, which will establish a new record for shipments of potatoes from the State. Only 2,730 cars were marketed last year. Shipments for the week ending Saturday, June 6, were 900 cars. This is the second heaviest week of the season.

"Movement from Baldwin County held up remarkably well last week, with about half of the daily shipments originating there. Digging is practically finished in that section now, so the bulk of this week's loadings will be in Mobile and Escambia counties. The State Farm at Atmore, which commenced digging a tract of 700 acres last Monday, reports yields of a carload to every two acres.

"Under pressure of heavy shipments from competing sections, the Alabama

f.o.b. market weakened. On Thursday and Friday, when the carlot movement from other sections was at its peak, Alabama U.S. No. 1 Bliss Triumphs sold as low as 85¢ per 100-pound sack, on f.o.b. usual terms basis. Notwithstanding heavy shipments, the demand for Alabama potatoes was good throughout the week. On Saturday, operators reported an increased wire-inquiry for 'red' potatoes, and many dealers did not have enough cars to fill their orders. Saturday afternoon there was a firmer feeling to the market. The dealers agreed to quote $1 Monday morning, feeling confident that, with lighter movement in prospect, they would be successful in raising the price. Quality has been very good during the past two weeks, although now there are reports of some stem-end rot and wire-worm injury.

"Shipments of cucumbers were 215 cars last week. As a result of the hot dry weather causing injury to the vines, movement this week will be very much lighter. Quality is also deteriorating, as the vines are drying up. Prices were better during the latter part of week, under the influence of increased demand and lighter supplies.

"Movement of sweet corn will commence from Baldwin County this week. This crop also is showing the effects of the dry weather. First shipments will be of ordinary quality, the corn being rather small and not very well filled."

86. WATERMELON SEASON BECOMING ACTIVE IN FLORIDA

R. M. Peterson sent the following letter from Leesburg, Fla., on June 9:-

"The watermelon crop in the Leesburg district is light and movement promises to be of short duration. It is generally felt that rain is needed to increase the size, but the melons are now in favorable carrying condition, and rains this week may do more harm than good. Loadings increased considerably yesterday, but are expected to be lighter today, with a fairly rapid increase the remainder of the week. The peak movement for this section should occur early next week. The sizes, thus far, have run heavily to 28-pound average and larger, but size is rapidly falling off and most of the crop will average from 24 to 28 pounds. The high prices of last week have taken a sharp decline. Demand was slow yesterday and very few sales were made, with a wide range in prices. The situation is unsettled. Most buyers feel that the markets will not take the melons at present asking-prices, and the shippers are not willing to cut prices enough to interest the local cash buyers. As a result, most cars are rolling to diversion points.

"Melons north of the Leesburg district are advancing rapidly. A few cars have been loaded from around Ocala, and loading will start today in the Gainesville-Trenton district, with quite heavy movement expected next week. A better yield is expected from this district and the sizes will probably run larger. Quite heavy rains were reported yesterday between Gainesville and Ocala. The nothern Florida and southern Georgia district will start hauling during the week ending June 27, according to present indications, but there is a difference of opinion as to how fast shipments will increase in that section. The fields are very dry and the yield is likely to be light, with mostly small melons, unless general rain occurs within the next week or ten days."

9b. NEWS ON OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS POTATOES

On his recent trip to producing districts of Oklahoma and Arkansas, R. E. Corbin wrote the following letter from Little Rock on June 7:-

"The potato crop around Muskogee and Ft. Smith has been held back by weather conditions, - late frosts and local droughts. The Arkansas crop may be about the same as last year, with a considerable increase in non-commercial acreage for home consumption, in compliance with a program of diversification and 'grow your own food' propaganda, carried on by the State Department of Agriculture and the County Agents, following the drought distress of last year.

"At Muskogee, I was informed by a representative of the Growers' Association that the crop in five counties, - Bryan, Choctaw, Pushmataha, McCurtain, parts of Toka (?) and also the southern part of Pittsburg County, - is injured by drought. Around Latimer and Le Flore counties, there have been 75 days with practically no rain. Muskogee, Wagoner, Sequoyah, Haskell and McIntosh counties will run about the same as last year. His estimate was for 1,000 cars under last year for the whole State. Shipments in 1930 were 2,730 cars. Others think that the estimated reduction is too great, but all factors agree that the shipments will be lighter than last season. Growers in the locality of Ft. Gibson stated that, unless they had rain within a week (Thursday, June 4), their potatoes would be only 40% of a crop.

"I examined many hills of potatoes and found nothing over 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 inches at that time, with the vines still fully green. The potatoes were very immature. No doubt a few growers will try to rush the season by digging too early, as usual. And, of course, there may be more mature potatoes than any I happened to see.

"As far as I have gone with the work on peaches, I have found very good interest in the matter and complete cooperation from all factors with whom I have talked. The State Department at Little Rock will pay for a day-letter from Kansas City giving shipments and a few important markets, which will be relayed at their own expense to various growers and shippers' associations over the State. In addition, the newspapers are cooperating fully in advertising the news service.

10b. A SUMMARY OF NEW YORK SHIPMENTS

On the last page of all reports issued at the Rochester office on the final day of the season, May 23, A. L. Thomas published a summary of New York State shipments of 10 important products, showing the movement for each of the past 10 shipping seasons. It is a good comparison.

11b. DISTRIBUTION OF FLORIDA CITRUS FRUITS

Under date of May 29, H. F. Willson released his usual summary on the distribution of Florida citrus fruits. This latest report, including 21 long pages, covers the 1930-31 season, with comparative figures for 1928-29, when the crop was comparable in size to that of 1930. Separate tabulations are given for oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and mixed citrus. The destinations of shipments are listed by States and towns, and some very interesting comparisons are made. The summary shows the distribution of more than 67,000 cars of Florida citrus fruit.

12b. CANADIAN TARIFF INCREASED ON CITRUS FRUITS

The Canadian Government placed a duty on oranges, effective June 2, 1931, of 35¢ per cubic foot. This applies to oranges imported from all countries except those of the British Empire, to which the British Preferential Tariff applies. Oranges are admitted free of duty from these (British) countries. On a box basis, the duty is equivalent to about 70¢ for Florida-type boxes and 64¢ for California boxes, calculated on the cubical contents of the boxes.- (information from the Foreign Agricultural Service Division)

13b. A DISCOURAGING MARKET OUTLOOK FOR NORTHWESTERN CHERRIES

In reply to an inquiry from Wenatchee, Wash., Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, sent the following information on cherries on June 4:-

"Advice from Oregon indicates that no prices are being set and there seems to be absolutely no buying of Oregon cherries. The Milton-Freewater district expects to ship the first car of Tartarian cherries today, and the black cherry shipments will not exceed 30 cars. There has been no improvement in the size of the crop. At the present time, there is absolutely no price of any kind being offered for cherries. Reports indicate that the packing company, which has been handling the Royal Ann crop in that district for a great many years, does not want to handle the cherries at all this year. Reports also indicate that growers in the Lewiston district are being offered 2¢ per pound, but they prefer to let the cherries hang on the trees if they cannot get above that amount. So far as I am able to learn, no prices are being offered in the Yakima Valley."

14b. A LARGE CROP OF PEACHES IN ILLINOIS

Illinois this year expects more than 4,000,000 bushels of peaches, compared with a crop of 3,600,000 bushels in 1929 and a five-year average of 1,904,000 bushels. The following letter from W. H. Hall, of the Chicago office, is of interest in this connection. It was written on June 9:-

"I am just in receipt of a letter from Arthur P. Holt, Superintendent of Agriculture, Springfield, Ill., in which he requests that we furnish the State with a market news service on peaches. For three consecutive seasons we furnished this service, although it was abandoned last year because of the complete failure of the Illinois crop. Indications are that peach shipments this season may exceed the record movement of 4,700 cars in 1929. The movement usually begins between the 5th and 15th of August and continues for about five weeks. "

15b. TEXAS TOMATOES TRUCKED TO CHICAGO

Par. 3b on page 341 of the D.L. for May 29 mentioned the hauling of tomatoes from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas to Chicago by motor-truck. C. D. Schoolcraft, who sent the original news item, has now submitted a clipping, which tells of the arrival of that truckload of tomatoes on the Chicago market. During the progress of the 1,600-mile trip, the driver sold some of his 310 lug boxes of tomatoes enroute. The 110 lugs remaining were sold in Chicago to a certain dealer for only $1.50 each, which was considerably less than the truck-driver hoped to realize.

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	July 11
			W-Melons	June 1	July 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS., City Hall	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs.*	May 5	June 9*
			Tomatoes	June 9	July 3
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.	May 21	June 20
			Potatoes	June 10	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 6	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MONETT, MO.** First Natl.Bank Bldg.	857	W. G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 26	June 18
MT. OLIVE, N. C.** P. O. Box 266	810A	R. L. Sutton	Potatoes	June 4	June 27
ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.** Chamber of Commerce	810	H. F. Willson	Potatoes	June 3	June 27
JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS**	811	W. D. Googe	Tomatoes	June 8	July 3
LEESBURG, FLA.** City Hall Bldg.	912	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 8	June 27
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 1
The following station probably will open on date indicated:					
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	R. G. Risser	Cants.	June 25	July 25
The following station closes on date indicated:					
MOBILE, ALA.** Post Office Bldg.	924	W. D. Hull	Potatoes	May 11	June 13
			Cucumbers	May 19	June 13

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Denver
A. M. McDowell in St. Louis
R. G. Risser on leave
W. D. Hull to come to Washington office.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. PORTO RICAN WORK MAKING ENCOURAGING PROGRESS

In a letter dated May 29 at San Juan, Porto Rico, A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector, sent the following news items:-

"It has been very gratifying to get several letters of recommendation from European receivers of Porto Rican fruit, approving the grading of our citrus fruit. In their letters, they all state thay they have noted a marked improvement in the quality. Some of them enclosed circulars which they have sent out to their trade, and in which they are quoting the grapefruit as U.S. No. 1 Bright, U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 and are printing quality statements from our certificates on these trade circulars. I have had over 20 requests from receivers in England and Germany for copies of the citrus grades.

"One large company has contracted approximately 100,000 boxes of citrus fruit here, all of which contracts are based upon the fruit meeting quality requirements of the respective U.S. grades and requiring a certificate of inspection attached to the bill of lading.

"With respect to the New York market, the growers here realize very thoroughly the need of regulating the volume of shipments each week to keep from breaking that market. At a meeting of growers on May 28, representing about 85% of the tonnage, it was agreed to pro-rate the shipments each week. They also agreed to pool all shipments of fruit shipped out of New York. It is the Committee's idea that domestic shipments for the next 12 weeks should run between 40,000 and 50,000 boxes, consisting of 80's and larger, all 96's and smaller to be shipped on direct bill of lading to European markets. European shipments will also consist of considerable 80 sizes and larger, as, during the tourist season in Europe, there seems to be a rather good demand for a certain amount of 64, 70, and 80 sizes.

"Porto Rican growers have no false illusion about obtaining high prices like they did last year on the domestic market, but it is their intention to ship out of New York enough fruit to hold the New York market on U.S. No. 1 grapefruit at about $4 per box."

2c. NEW JERSEY BERRIES AND PEAS BEING INSPECTED

The following excerpt is from a letter of June 9, written by W. C. Lynn at the Trenton office:-

"We have started our inspection work in New Jersey earlier than usual, because of the fact that our auction markets at Cedarville and Rosenhayn requested this service, beginning on strawberries. We are now making some inspections of both strawberries and peas at these markets."

3c. BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

We are in receipt of information that the Castigliola Produce Company, 109 Poydras St., New Orleans, La., closed recently and receivers have been appointed. Any unpaid bills against this company should be forwarded to Washington for collection.

4c. INSPECTIONS IN FLORIDA DURING LAST HALF OF MAY

The following summary is taken from a report by O. G. Strauss and covers shipping-point inspections in Florida during the second half of May:

FRUITS:

	Grapefruit	Oranges	Tangerines	Mixed	Total
Fruit inspections May 16-31:	20	48	-	2	70
" " to May 15:	509	667	40	342	1558
" " thru May 31:	529	715	40	344	1628

VEGETABLES:

	Beets	Cab-bage	Car-rots	Cel-ery	Cukes	Letc.	Pep-pers	Pota-toes	Stbr.	Toma-toes	Mixed	Total
May 16-31:	-	-	-	3	33	-	-	277	-	84	1	399*
to May 15:	1	28	8	4084	45	22	61	864	179	129	34	5437
thru May 31:	1	28	8	4067	78	22	61	1141	179	213	35	5836*

Total fruit and vegetable inspections, May 16-31: 469

Season total through May 31: - 7464.

*Including 1 car of beans, May 16-31.

5c. HEAVY INSPECTION WORK ON ARKANSAS PEACHES ABOUT TO START

The following is quoted from a letter of June 6, written by G. W. Winfrey at Monett, Mo.:-

"I am starting one man on some 60 cars of Early Wheeler peaches in eastern Arkansas the latter part of next week. Until the Nashville peach deal begins, reports on cars inspected in Arkansas will be filed at Van Buren. We have tentative applications for inspection of some 2,000 cars of Elbertas and probably will receive some more soon. These are largely in the Nashville district, but some cars all over the State."

6c. SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN MISSISSIPPI

The following figures are taken from a report by F. S. Kinsey, Supervising inspector at Crystal Springs, showing Mississippi inspections to May 31:-

	Peas	Cabg.	Beets	Beans	Pots.	Mixed Veg.	Stbr.	Total
Apr. 22-30:	85	17	-	-	-	4	6	112
May 1-31	143	727	5	22	3	189	61	1150
	228	744	5	22	3	193	67	1262

Mr. Kinsey added this comment:-

"The above really does not tell the whole story. We have inspected enough truckloads of vegetables to make 300 or 400 more cars,- loads which did not make grade and which went into 'No. 2' cars, as they are locally termed. In many cases, shippers do not want certificates on these 'No. 2' cars."

7c. ADDITIONS FOR LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following names should be added, in alphabetical order, to the June 1 list of Past-Due Accounts in each office:-

Castigliola Produce Company,	109 Poydras St., New Orleans	$13.00
H. B. Miller Agency,	Toppenish, Wash.	$12.00
Geo. F. Ensey,	Tropic, Fla.	$1.00
V. A. Belli,	107 Foster St., Worcester, Mass.	$5.70
H. A. Murphy,	Caribou, Maine	$1.00

8c. INSPECTION NOTES FROM IDAHO

L. G. Schultz, Supervising Inspector at Boise, Idaho, left on last Monday for a trip to the Idaho Falls section of the State, in connection with inspection work. Before starting, he wrote the following letter under date of June 4:-

"Our potato shipments are practically at an end, although there will be scattered cars moving until the middle of June or later. We expect to start fresh pea inspections Friday or Saturday of this week, and the movement will be general by next Monday, June 8. This crop is being shipped in an increased amout each year and it is generally estimated that there is sufficient acreage planted this season to ship better than 500 cars. We do not get inspections on the majority of this crop, however, as it is handled under the contract system. But the dealers are increasing their acreage each year, and we hope to secure a much larger percentage of the fresh pea movement in the near future. It is expected that the movement of sweet cherries will start both at Emmett and Lewiston sometime during the week of June 15. After getting the work started at Emmett, I will make a trip to the north end of the State, covering the Lewiston and Juliaetta sections.

"Our total inspections for the present fiscal year will amount to slightly more than the estimated 35,000, as up to June 1 we had 34,840 cars."

9c. NOTES ON CALIFORNIA INSPECTION WORK

The following items have been taken from California Inspectors' Notes, dated June 5 at Sacramento:-

Including 39 shipside inspections in San Francisco, total for the month of May was 2,913 inspections. The leading districts were: Los Angeles 735, Shafter 566, Watsonville 326, Santa Maria-Guadalupe 315, Salinas 303, Indio 249, San Jose-Hayward 211.

Practically all of the No. 1 Bermuda onions have been harvested and shipped from the Coachella Valley. The remainder of the crop is mostly boilers and onions culled from the No. 1's.

From 40 to 50 cars are being certified daily in the Los Angeles district. Most of these are cars of celery in the Venice section.

R. C. Butner,
Supervisor of Inspection

NOTE: The monthly tables of inspections in terminal markets and for the Navy and Marine Corps will be published in the next Division Letter.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	June 30
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	June 20
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, P.O. Box 166 Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	June 20
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Muskogee, Okla.	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	July 15
NORTH CAROLINA:	G. R. Warren, c/o State Div. of Markets, Raleigh, N. C.	Potatoes	June 1	June 20
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	July 15
VIRGINIA:	H. H. Henderson, 304 Southern Produce Building, Norfolk, Va.	Potatoes	June 1	June 25
	Robert Bier, Cape Charles, Va.	Potatoes	June 8	July 10

Reports on southern Indiana strawberries can be had from J.E. Dickerson, at the Indianapolis office.

Reports on Arkansas peaches can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Van Buren, Arkansas.

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. INTERPRETATION OF SIZE REQUIREMENTS IN NORTHERN-GROWN ONION GRADES

U.S. No. 1 grade requires that "Unless otherwise specified" the minimum diameter shall be 1-1/2 inches and 40% or more of the onions shall be over 2 inches in diameter. The "Unless otherwise specified" applies to both the 1-1/2 inch minimum and the 40% over 2 inches.

The question has been asked whether or not onions can be certified as U.S. No. 1 when the minimum diameter is 1-1/2 inches but the lot contains less than 40% over 2 inches in diameter. Such certification is permissible, if the percentage of onions over 2 inches is mentioned in connection with the grade, as "U.S. No. 1, 20% over 2 inches."

The question has also been asked whether or not a lot of onions must contain 40% over 2 inches in diameter when certified as "U.S. No. 1, 1-1/2 inches minimum." The answer is yes. Onions certified as "U.S. No. 1" or "U.S. No. 1, 1-1/2 inches minimum," both require 40% or more over 2 inches in diameter.

Onions certified as "U.S. No. 1, 1-3/4 inches minimum" also require 40% or more over 2 inches, unless some other percentage is specified in connection with the grade, as "U.S. No. 1, 1-3/4 inches minimum - 30% over 2 inches."

If U.S. No. 1 onions are certified as smaller than 1-1/2 inches minimum (as "U.S. No. 1, 1-1/4 inches minimum"), they are not required to have 40% of the onions over 2 inches in diameter. This is explained in the footnote on the front page of the grades.

2d. CHANGE LEGENDS ON PHOTOGRAPHS OF NORTHERN-GROWN ONIONS

All inspection offices should immediately change the legends on the onion photographs to conform to the following interpretation of shapes permitted in the revised Northern-Grown Onion grades:

All onions in Photograph No. 5 and the third onion from the left in Photograph No. 4 shall be permitted in the U.S. No. 1 grade. The remaining onions in Photograph No. 4 shall not be considered as meeting the requirements of shape for U.S. No. 1 grade but shall be allowed in U.S. Commercial.

In Photograph No. 6 the first, second, and fourth specimens from the left shall be permitted in U.S. Commercial, but the third and fifth shall not be allowed in this grade because of being badly misshapen.

R. R. PAILTHORP, Specialist in Standardization

REGULATORY BRANCH

1e. INFORMATION DESIRED CONCERNING A CALIFORNIA BROKER

Any employee of the F.&V. Division, who knows the present address of W. A. Kendall, formerly located at the California Hotel, El Centro, Calif., should please send the information promptly to H. A. Spilman, of the Regulatory Branch in Washington. Important mail for this party has been returned, undelivered, and it is essential that the mail reach him at an early date.

2e. COLORADO ILLEGAL BASKET CASE DECIDED

About 22,500 illegal straight-side baskets, which were seized last fall under a process of libel from the Currie Canning Company at Grand Junction, Colorado, were ordered condemned and forfeited to the United States in a recent decision. Upon the payment of all costs and the posting of a bond in the sum of $3,000, conditioned that the baskets shall not be sold or used contrary to law, the baskets were released to the Canning Company. The baskets in question are over-size. However, it was shown to the Court's satisfaction that they were not used for the determination of quantity but merely as receptacles for contract tomatoes, and they were therefore released for that purpose. The action against the Colorado Basket Company, for manufacturing the baskets, is still pending.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch

OFFICE NOTES:

On three days last week, a National Conference on Weights and Measures met at the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C. H. A. Spilman, of the Regulatory Branch of our Division, addressed the conference at one of its sessions, and in the course of his remarks suggested the consolidation or combining of the four existing Federal laws relating to fruit and vegetable containers into one general law, including the benefits of each.

Herbert Graff, inspector in Washington, substituted at Baltimore last week for S. F. Shreve, who was on annual leave. Mr. Graff also made a trip recently to Richmond, Va., and another trip to Roanoke, Va., for the purpose of handling inspections in those markets.

F. G. Robb, in charge of the Regulatory Branch, went to New York City and to Riverhead, L. I., early this week. He attended the P.A.C. hearing at Riverhead on Tuesday.

J. G. Cross, in charge of transportation contacts, will spend the next two weeks in New York and Boston, perfecting arrangements for reports from the transportation companies on dairy products.

W. D. Hull, after closing the field station at Mobile, Ala., this week, will be transferred to the Washington office to assist with the work here for some months.

B. E. Surry, having substituted for R. E. Corbin in Kansas City during the past 10 days, will now proceed to the Denver office of the Market News Service and substitute for Bryce Morris, while the latter is on annual leave.

W. J. Bertush has returned temporarily to the Chicago office, having finished the supervision of inspections on Tennessee strawberries and cabbage. He probably will return to Humboldt about July 1, when tomato movement begins. The Tennessee cabbage crop is cleaning up earlier than expected, because of poor quality resulting from worm injury.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Among recent visitors to the Washington office were J. P. Klein, J. G. Scott, G. D. Clark and B. O. Nickerson. Mr. Klein is connected with the Porto Rican Fruit Growers Improvement Committee at New York; Mr. Scott came from Philadelphia to confer regarding market-news work; Mr. Clark came from the Texas headquarters of Crop Estimates Division; and Mr. Nickerson came from Brooklyn, where he is now employed. Mr. Klein and Mr. Nickerson were members of the market-news staff some 8 or 10 years ago, and Mr. Clark transferred from the Market News Service one year ago.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Surry on the arrival of a daughter, Virginia Lee, in their family on May 21. Mrs. Surry has been with her parents at Portland, Oregon, during the past few months.

W. F. Plummer, in charge of the Boston inspection office, is spending two or three days of this week at points in the Connecticut River Valley, discussing onion grades with growers and shippers. There is an unusual interest in these grades this year and a possibility of some shipping-point inspection work on Massachusetts onions.

G. W. Winfrey expects to move his headquarters from Monett, Mo., to Muskogee, Okla., by the middle of the coming week, in order to supervise the shipping-point inspection work on Oklahoma potatoes.

Announcement has been received of the birth of a daughter, Helen Marian, on May 19 to Mrs. F. B. Parsons, who was stenographer in Mr. Boree's office until January 1. Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, the happy parents.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, returned to the Washington office for a few days last week, but has now gone back to North Carolina in the interest of potato work.

C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's Office, plans to go to Seaford, Del., on Sunday, where he will take depositions in connection with a case under the P.A.C. Act.

The front page of last week's D. L. carried an announcement of the new Florida bulletin on fruits and vegetables. Due credit should be given to Mr. Neill Rhodes, Assistant Commissioner of the Florida State Marketing Bureau, at Jacksonville, as the author or compiler of this excellent bulletin.

Apple market reports were discontinued for the season at the Spokane office on Friday of this week.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 25 June 19, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. CARE OF U. S. PROPERTY BY FIELD OFFICES

Recently there came to my attention the fact that a typewriter belonging to the Government had been lost by one of our field offices. This typewriter had not been in use for several years. Yet each year the man in charge of that office had returned an inventory of the property on hand; had included on such inventory this typewriter, and had failed to report it as surplus property, even though it was not in use. The office in question does not know when the typewriter was lost, and it is apparent that no actual physical check of the property and the numbers of various machines was made when the inventory was submitted, as, otherwise, the loss of this typewriter would have been known before the office was called upon to release it as a trade-in.

Any man who signs a property inventory is responsible personally for the property listed thereon, and he may be called upon at any time to make reimbursement from personal funds for the loss of any property for which he has assumed responsibility. I do not believe the above condition obtains generally throughout our field offices, but I wish at this time to stress the responsibility which rests upon all officers in charge of branch offices, where we have Government property, and ask that each year, when requested by the Property and Supply Section to submit an inventory, a careful physical check be made of the property in order to ascertain if it is actually on hand and a complete report be forwarded with such inventory of all property which is surplus, in order that such surplus property may be used elsewhere when needed.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY HELP TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL LEAVE

During the past few years there has been a tendency to increase the employment of temporary help in order to provide for annual leave of employees in the field. In the interest of economy, no appointments should be made or employees hired under letter of authorization for the purpose of providing annual leave for any employee in the field service except in the case of such offices as have only one technical or one clerical employee. Where there is more than one employee in an office, an effort should be made to work out a leave program by having leave granted at such times during the year as the work is lightest and when the employees can be spared.

In cases where it is impossible to provide for annual leave under the method outlined above, specific approval should be secured in advance from the administrative office for the employment of additional temporary help for this purpose.

F. J. HUGHES,
Business Manager, B.A.E.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. LOW PRICES FOR FLORIDA WATERMELONS

The following letter came from R. M. Peterson, at Leesburg, Fla., under date of June 16:-

"The watermelon loadings are steadily advancing northward and one car was shipped from Georgia yesterday. Most of the watermelon territory, in both Florida and Georgia, received rather general rains during the past few days, but the rainfall in some sections was too light to do much good. The Leesburg section is too far advanced to be benefited to any extent, and the melons are running mostly to small sizes. Those in the Gainesville section are ripening smaller than was anticipated, but the size mzy improve as a result of the recent rainfall. The southern Georgia crop was suffering for moisture and last week it threatened to be the lightest in 10 years, but it is still too early to predict the final outcome. Most shippers feel that the early Georgia harvesting will be light and mostly small melons, and that the shipments will increace very slowly for the first two weeks. Favorable weather, however, may result in a good second crop.

"Shipments from the Leesburg district are at their peak now and will drop off rapidly after the middle of this week. Haulings in the Gainesville section are increasing quite rapidly, with approximately 100 cars out yesterday, and will probably reach the peak movement about June 22.

"Although shipments have been relatively light, the shipping-point market is very unsatisfactory. Prices have dropped nearly $100 per carload during the past week, and are somewhat lower than they were at this time last year when the total movement was twice as heavy. The cash-track market today on 24-30 pound Tom Watsons was $175-$325 per car. The cool weather in the northern markets is partly responsible for these low prices, but many shippers feel that the consumer's lack of buying-power is the most important factor and that the market will not improve materially even if ideal watermelon eating weather develops.

"Both the cutting quality and carrying quality have been generally good. Some of the first melons from all sections were pulled too green, but the bulk of the crop has shown good color. Very little Anthracnose has developed and the melons are presenting a good appearance."

2b. ARKANSAS PEACH PROSPECTS

Arkansas has an estimated crop of almost 3,000,000 bushels of peaches this year, compared with a very short crop of 84,000 bushels last season. Carlot movement in 1930 amounted to only 41 cars. R. E. Corbin, who visited the peach producing sections of the State last week, sent the following telegram from Nashville, Arkansas, on June 9:-

"Local estimates of the Arkansas peach crop range from 3,500 to 4,500 cars, as follows: Roughly 2,500 cars or more from the Nashville section; 300 from DeQueen-Horatio; 900 from around Clarksville, 400 from Crowley Ridge and a few others from scattered points. A few Wheelers moving this week from White County, and a few Early Rose expected from this district around June 20. Main Elberta crop will roll July 15 or 20."

As soon as movement becomes heavy, Mr. Corbin plans to issue daily market reports on peaches from the Kansas City office.

3b. WESTERN RADIO TALKS COMMENDED

Each Friday noon, C. J. Hansen, of the San Francisco office, broadcasts a talk on fruits and vegetables in the Western Farm and Home Hour. He speaks from Station KGO. Under date of June 5, he received the following letter of commendation from a prominent produce dealer in southern California:-

"I have been hearing your familiar voice over the radio every Friday during the noon hour. Your talk is very instructive and valuable. It differs from so many instructive talks in that it is so entertainingly given. You successfully take the dryness out of statistics and aptly apply them. Keep up the good work."

4b. LETTUCE, GREEN PEAS AND CAULIFLOWER MOVING FROM WASHINGTON

T. R. Hall sent the following report from the Seattle office under date of June 12:-

"Puget Sound lettuce growers are in the midst of their harvesting operations, and cutting is general in the early districts. Operations are centering around Kent and Auburn, and the greatest activity will likely be in that district for the remainder of this month. Weather conditions have not been altogether favorable, for we have had one or two days this week with light rain. The rain-damage itself has not been excessive but some mud accumulates upon the lettuce in harvesting. However, the temperatures following the rain have not risen excessively and damage from this source has not been serious.

"The demand has been very slow. Some buyers are afraid to ship Puget Sound lettuce for a few days following rains, because the stock sometimes becomes too crisp and tender for safe shipment. Many of the eastern cities are using locally-grown lettuce, which can be obtained very cheaply and which is good, according to reports. While track holdings are not heavy, the local supplies adjacent to eastern cities, where quality is good, are having a curtailing effect upon demand for western lettuce. The cash-track market is holding within a range $1.25-$1.50 for crates of 4 to 5 dozens, depending upon quality and percentage of U.S.No. 1 stock.

"Green-pea movement will be on in earnest next week. Some have moved this current week, but they have been largely for nearby markets and consist of Telephones and Gradus, mixed. Rains early this week were very beneficial to the developing Telephone crop. The market is opening around the following scale of prices, f.o.b. cash-track:- 30-pound hampers, $1.50; 40-pound crates, $2 and 50-pound crates, $2.50. Present indications point to a big pea deal for the Puget Sound area.

"Cauliflower is also moving in carlots as well as in mixed cars. The damand is slow, with sales and cash-track quotations currently $1. Quality is considered fair for this territory."

5b. USE OF PERSONALLY-OWNED AUTOMOBILES AT OFFICIAL STATIONS

On June 30, 1931, the authority under which a mileage rate for the use of personally-owned automobiles at official stations has been allowed will be discontinued. Employees so using personally-owned automobiles should bear this in mind and incur no expense of this nature, for which reimbursement will be expected, after June 30.

6b. NEWS ON ARKANSAS PEACHES AND GRAPES

After returning to Kansas City on Thursday of last week, R. E. Corbin wrote the following additional letter regarding his trip to producing sections in that area:-

"The peaches in the Nashville section are certainly promising. I visited many orchards and it is hard to conceive of a more uniform crop of better quality than this stock shows at the present time. Not many trees are heavily loaded but practically all of them are well filled, with the peaches all about the same size and as free from scars and all manner of defects as could be hoped. Elbertas were mostly of a size that I could barely touch my thumb and forefinger around them. The orchardists have practiced clean culture for the most part and the orchards were well cultivated, well sprayed and well pruned, on the whole.

"Naturally there was considerable difference of opinion as to the size of the crop and the date for beginning shipments. Estimates for the number of cars out of the Highland or Nashville district ranged from 2,500 to 3,000, and the date for the first shipments is placed anywhere from the 15th to the 25th of July. Personally I believe the earliest date is the most probable. While at Nashville, I interviewed several shippers and growers. There is a feeling of unrest among the shippers because some of the growers' associations are beginning to want a cash-track market established and say that they are going to try to get cash buyers in there.

"The situation at Clarksville is very similar, except that the peaches are not so large at the present time and, if size is an indication of maturity, they will be a week or 10 days later than the Highland crop. The orchards around Clarksville were not so well pruned and, judging from the color of the leaves, have not been so well fertilized as those around Nashville. The crop on the whole, however, is very uniform and the promised yield is good. Most factors at Clarksville are predicting that 600 to 800 cars will be shipped from Johnson County.

"On the way home, I talked to some of the growers of grapes around Fayetteville and Springdale, trying to get an idea of their expectations of the grape crop this season. The vineyards I happened to pass looked better than last season, with probably 40% of the crop set on. Some factors are estimating that the shipments from the Ozark region, including Arkansas and southern Missouri points, will run to nearly 1,000 cars. Operators of the juice factory have some vineyards of their own and are planning to buy very little, if any, of the stock from other growers this season, which will throw more of it on the open market as fresh fruit. This company used about 200 cars last year."

7b. COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF APPLES, JUNE 1

Last Friday afternoon, the following report on apple holdings was released in Washington:-

	Barrels	Boxes	Baskets
June 1, 1931:	38,000	1,428,000	192,000
June 1, 1930:	96,000	761,000	309,000
Five-year Avg.:	155,000	887,000	215,000

Total holdings were equivalent to 578,000 barrels, which is 28% more than at the same time last season and 11% above the average figure.

8b. GEORGIA PEACH CROP DELAYED

R. E. Keller sent the following report from Macon on June 13:-

"The Georgia peach harvest is starting out rather slowly. A period of prolonged dry weather is causing the early varieties not only to mature slowly but also to run heavily to small sizes. The quality of the peaches, however, is very good, running above average. The dry weather aided in making spray applications effective, thus reducing the insect and bacterial infestation and injury. Carlot forwardings did not assume any importance until the fore part of this week and, even then, the total shipments for the week up to Saturday amounted to only 142 cars. Shipments to date are somewhat lighter than those of a year ago, 221 cars having moved as against 315 last season.

"The delay in the harvest is evidently caused by dry weather, as the crop of the early varieties is estimated at a much larger figure than that of last season. The Uneeda movement is in full swing and will probably reach its height about Tuesday of next week. Early Rose forwardings are just commencing and by the first of the week should be moving in volume. Farmers are of the opinion that it is almost too late for a rain to be of much benefit to the Early Rose crop; so it appears likely that Georgia will be shipping small peaches for some time yet. The Early Rose crop was estimated around 860 to 875 cars but, because of the small sizes, many shippers think that it will be nearer 800 cars.

"Considerable cash-track business was transacted during the first week of June, when shipments were around 10 cars a day or less. This week, however, the buyers were all holding off. Most of the peaches have been running so small that buyers have been afraid to put their money into them and shippers were hesitant to put them on 'wire orders.' Hence most of this week's shipments of Uneedas have been either consigned or rolled for delivered sale. Distribution, as yet, has been confined almost entirely to New York City. This has been another factor causing New York cash buyers to stop purchasing. As soon as the Early Rose variety and other large peaches are harvested, a better distribution is expected."

9b. EASTERN TEXAS TOMATO MOVEMENT BECOMING ACTIVE

W. D. Googe sent the following letter from Jacksonville, Texas, on June 14:-

"The tomato movement from Texas during the past week covered generally the entire State south of Jacksonville to the lower Rio Grande Valley. Shipments in the immediate vicinity of Jacksonville were comparatively light, and there were almost no cars shipped from points north of here. The eastern Texas deal proper is about two weeks late, and will probably not reach its peak until June 20 or 25. With replantings in many fields as a result of late frosts, it is estimated that the tomato movement from Texas will continue fairly heavy until the middle of July. However, there is considerable doubt as to whether all these tomatoes will be shipped, since prices are already low and many other sections will be shipping before the Texas crop has been moved. Another factor which may curtail the movement is lack of moisture. Many growers and shippers claim that, without rains during the next few days, the yield will be reduced considerably. Scattered thundershowers have been falling the latter part of the week but, so far, the rains have not been heavy enough or general enough to do much good."

10b. IMPORTANT NEWS FROM IMPERIAL VALLEY

A. E. Prugh submitted the following information in a letter of June 15 from Brawley, Calif.:-

"Movement of cantaloupes from Imperial Valley has continued fairly heavy. The Perfectos are yielding well and the expected break between the covered and uncovered acreage did not materialize. The market the past few days has been mostly 90¢-$1 on Perfectos, standard-45 basis, and is not expected to advance much above that figure. Yuma, Arizona, is shipping about 10 cars a day and it is reported that Phoenix will start this week. It is possible that shipments may reach 500 cars a day toward the end of this week, unless a shortage develops on 'shook' or crate material. It is rumored that there may be such a shortage. At present, there is only a light demand for Hale's Best and they have been selling down to 80¢ per crate. The market on 'ripes' is around $1, with some precooled selling at $1.10 and the shipper paying the precooling charge of $25 per car.

"Honey Dew shipments increased to around 100 cars a day the latter part of last week, and the f.o.b. price dropped to 55¢-75¢ per crate and is lower today. Honey Ball shipments have been light, around 10 cars a day, but reached 17 on the 14th and will continue to increase. The price on the 14th dropped to $1.50-$1.65 and will be lower this week.

"A cantaloupe, named the 'Perfect,' has been developed this season and has been commanding a premium in eastern markets. This melon has somewhat the appearance of the Perfecto and is as large as the Hale's Best, with a rather small seed cavity and good flavor.

"Shipments of cantaloupes, Honey Dews and Honey Balls to June 14 and the cash f.o.b. prices on standard 45's June 14 for several years are as follows:

	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925
Shipments	11115	9635	5503	8927	5568	9829	7554
Price	80¢-1.00	1.60-1.75	2-2.25	1.50-1.60	1.75-2.00	1.50-1.75	1.50-1.60

"Watermelon shipments recently have been around 100 cars a day. Weather has been unfavorable in the Coast markets and the f.o.b. price has shown a steady decline until this afternoon some are reported sold at $100 per car or $8 per ton. The distribution has spread out to about 135 markets in western States. Texas has started and will force Imperial melons out of markets like Omaha, Kansas City and Lincoln, to which points a few cars have been billed. Out of the 108 cars shipped the 14th, 61 were billed to Los Angeles, which is expected to break that market in the morning.

"The first car of Thompson Seedless grapes was shipped from Seeley to New York on June 13.

"The tomato season is practically ended, but an occasional car of carrots continues to move."

11b. MAILING-LIST FIGURES NEEDED FROM MARKET STATIONS

A few days ago, men in charge of branch offices in city markets were requested to submit to Washington a report on the number of names served during the fiscal year. These figures are needed promptly for the annual report to the Chief of Bureau. If any office failed to receive this special request, please advise us.

12b. THE TOMATO SITUATION IN CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

"Shipments of Mississippi tomatoes were fairly light during the week ending June 13, but movement for this week is expected to be rather heavy. In fact, some are predicting that this will be the peak week of the season. The crop is needing rain badly and the sizes are already boginning to run small; however, the vines have a heavy crop of small fruit and a good rain in the next few days would change the situation considerably.

"A considerable number of packing-sheds have been built in the district since last season, but as yet the amount of shed-packed stock has been light. Most of these sheds belong to independent buyers and shippers who are not members of the Shippers' Association, an organization which is made up of merchants who furnish the growers their supplies during the year and handle their crops during the shipping season. Since the Association controls approximately 75% of the tonnage, there is only a limited amount left to go to the independent sheds. Some of the larger shippers of the Association have built packing-sheds, but their output has also been light. The reason for this is that flats have been selling for a premium in proportion to lugs, and, since practically all flats are farm-packed, the growers have been able to make an additional saving by the use of farm labor instead of incurring packing-house charges. The demand for flats is coming mainly from smaller markets and, now that they have practically all received their first shipments, the demand has become much slower and, from now on as the volume of shipments increases, the proportion of lugs will be greater." (from J.B.Owens, June 14)

13b. RECENT REPORTS ON NORTH CAROLINA POTATOES

North Carolina exceeded all other potato States last week with a high record of more than 3,000 cars shipped. The 765 cars loaded on Friday, June 12, established a new day's record for the State.

The following comments are taken from a letter of June 17, written by H. F. Willson, at Elizabeth City:-

"The general rains throughout the State on Monday and Tuesday curtailed the loadings and, weather permitting, the shipments of the latter part of this week will be very heavy, possibly equaling or even surpassing those of June 12. The Elizabeth City section will be at its peak and, while Mt. Olive and southern points are on the wane, the total roll will be heavy. The potatoes are of good quality and yields are turning out well. All fields in the State are ready to dig and, with Eastern Shore and Norfolk sections beginning to ship, the remainder of the crop will be moved as soon as possible. Estimates of the total shipments vary considerably, ranging mostly from 7,500 to 8,500 cars. But, when the increase in acreage and the prevailing yield is considered, the total movement will probably be 9,000 to 9,500 cars."

R. L. Sutton sent the following information in a letter of June 17 from Mt. Olive, N. C.:-

"Price levels at shipping points have been low throughout the deal. Growers in this section are averaging very good yields, the outturn running from 125 to 250 bushels per acre. Locally, the yields are spoken of as so many barrels dug to one barrel of seed planted. Yields are never spoken of as so many bushels per acre. The quality of the stock has been very good. However, it is probable that shipments from certain sections of the State with heavier types of soil will, during the next few days, show a certain amount of dirty stock."

14b. EASTERN SHORE BERRY SEASON ENDED; POTATOES NOW ACTIVE

V. H. Nicholson sent the following news in a letter of June 16 from Pocomoke City, Md.:-

"The strawberry season on the Eastern Shore is practically finished. Total movement by rail and boat amounts to 691 cars for the three-States peninsula. This figure is just 188 cars short of the crop of last season. The greatest decrease is noted in the Deleware shipments, where only 104 cars have been shipped this season, as against 203 last season. Maryland shipments total 354 cars, or 70 less than last year, and Virginia shipments amount to 233 cars, against 255 in 1930.

"While the railroads have made an attempt to obtain the strawberry business, the motor trucks hawe really handled a larger percentage of the crop than last season. On a basis of 290 crates to the carlot, the trucks have handled 881 carlots this season, against 879 carlots last year. The trucks handled about 46% of the strawberry shipments from the Eastern Shore in 1930, but this season they have handled at least 56% of the crop. The railroads claim that they have handled more than last season, and the freight shipment figures bear them out. However, what they have gained in freight loadings, they have lost in express movement.

"The berry season has been profitable to the growers in Virginia and around Marion and Princess Anne, Maryland. However, the market broke before the growers in Delaware and northern Maryland had shipped many berries, and very little profit will be realized in those sections.

"Rain last night and today has retarded the movement of potatoes, and it is probable that shipments today and Wednesday will be rather light. Shipments from the Eastern Shore this week will probably not exceed 400 cars, unless the market reacts in the next day or two. Growers in the southern part of the peninsula are getting rather anxious to dig, and a few Maryland growers expect to begin digging on June 22.

"Yields of the first fields have ranged from 35 to 65 barrels, with an average of around 50 barrels per acre. The crop has certainly had sufficient rainfall in most districts and prospects indicate a good yield for the entire Eastern Shore. It now appears that there was little damage from blight, and theaffected fields have just about overcome any ill effects."

15b. VINE-RIPE PRECOOLED CANTALOUPES IN THE CLEVELAND MARKET

A. B. Farlinger sent the following report from Cleveland in a letter of June 16 regarding vine-ripe cantaloupes from Imperial Valley:-

"During the present season these vine-ripe precooled cantaloupes have been on the local market regularly and have met with a very good demand from a certain class of trade who are willing to pay 50¢ to 75¢ per crate premium to get this stock. Many of the cars of cantaloupes received on the Cleveland market this year have run from 25% to 50% vine-ripe, as they are referred to on the local market. Understand that a straight car of this precooled ripe stock is due tomorrow, June 17, which will be the first solid car of precooled vine-ripe cantaloupes to be received on this market.

"This ripe stock has been arriving in very good condition but must be handled quickly, especially after removing from refrigeration. It is noted that stock off ice for one-half a day shows signs of deterioration, and after a day off ice the stock becomes soft and unattractive in appearance, and in many cases mold commences to develop almost immediately."

(continued on Page 402)

B.C.BORRE, Specialist in Market News

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	July 11
			W-melons	June 1	July 11
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS., City Hall	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs.*	May 5	June 9*
			Tomatoes	June 9	July 3
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.*	May 21	June 17*
			Potatoes	June 12	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 6	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MT. OLIVE, N. C.** P. O. Box 266	810A	R. L. Sutton	Potatoes	June 4	June 27
ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.** Chamber of Commerce	810	H. F. Willson	Potatoes	June 3	July 1
JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS**	811	W. D. Googe	Tomatoes	June 8	July 3
LEESBURG, FLA.** City Hall Bldg.	912	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 8	June 27
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 1
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	R. G. Risser	Cants.	June 25	July 25
HUMBOLDT, TENN.**	806	J. B. Owens	Tomatoes	July 6	July 25
The following station closed on date indicated:					
MONETT, MO.** First Natl. Bank Bldg.	857	W.G. Thompson	Stbr.	May 26	June 17

**State cooperating

* Reports discontimued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Denver
W, D. Hull in Washington

A. M. McDowell in St. Louis
R. G. Risser on leave
W. G. Thompson in Chicago

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in in this table to keep it up to date.

REGULATORY BRANCH

1e. MANY P.A.C. CASES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Hearings in 10 cases under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act are planned for many cities during the period of June 24 to July 13 inclusive. The schedule is subject to change, and it is probable that some additional cases will be set for hearings during the period mentioned.

At present, the schedule calls for a hearing in Altoona, Pa., on June 24 on a complaint against the Altoona Produce Co., involving an allegation of failure truly and correctly to account for a car of tomatoes and a car of cucumbers; the taking of depositions in Pittsburgh on June 25 in a complaint against Hallock, Young & Company, Inc., Mattituck, N. J.; and hearings in Cleveland on June 26 in a complaint against Thomas Caito, alleging unjustified rejection of 10 cars of pears.

In Newark, N. J., on June 29 there will be a hearing on a complaint against Paul Rothman, Inc., alleging unjustified rejection of two cars of grapes; in Brooklyn on June 30 in a complaint against Hashinsky, Breslow & Richer, alleging unjustified rejection of a car of grapes; in Mattituck, N. J., on July 1 in a complaint against Hallock, Young & Co., Inc., alleging failure to deliver in accordance with the terms of the contract two cars of potatoes.

In New York City on July 3 a hearing will be held on a complaint against Mersel & Fortgang, alleging failure truly and correctly to account in connection with 125 barrels of apples; in Bridgeport, Conn., on July 6 against A. Abeson, Inc., alleging unjustified rejection of a car of potatoes; in Boston on July 8 against the B. & D. Fruit Co., alleging unjustified rejection of a car of grapes; in Burt, N. Y., on July 10 against the Burt Cold Storage, Inc., alleging failure to deliver in accordance with the terms of the contract a car of peaches; in Buffalo, on July 13 against Altman & Swartz, alleging unjustified rejection of a car of Honey Dew melons.

The hearings in Pittsburgh, New York, Boston and Buffalo will be held in our branch offices. The hearing in Cleveland will be held in a room in the Northern Ohio Food Terminal, formerly used as a club room. The buildings in which the other hearings will be held will be announced later. R. L. Dillman, C. P. Dorr and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan, of the Office of the Solicitor, and O. N. Harsha, of the Regulatory Branch of this Division, will make this trip.

F. G. ROBB
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

AIRPLANE TRANSPORTATION of Oregon cherries to small markets west of Omaha is being tried experimentally by a western aircraft corporation. If successful, a special cargo plane will be constructed to handle the business.

INVESTIGATORS at the Florida Experiment Station have found that it is possible to freeze tangerine juice by relatively simple methods and without any special precautions. It is said that tangerine juice blended with orange juice gives a richer and deeper color and more flavor to the orange juice.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. HEAVY TOMATO INSPECTION WORK IN MISSISSIPPI

In a letter of June 14, from Crystal Springs, Miss., F. S. Kinsey advised that he has 60 inspectors on the roll. The period of June 14-27 was expected to be the rush season in Mississippi, with tomato shipments very heavy.

2c. INDIANA BERRY INSPECTIONS FINISHED

J. E. Dickerson, of the Indianapolis office, has informed us that the strawberry inspection work in southern Indiana will be finished this week. Quality of the fruit this season was unusually good, and a considerably larger tonnage than originally estimated was handled by the inspection service.

3c. WASHINGTON SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS FOR APRIL

The following tabulation of April inspections in the State of Washington was taken from the Inspection Letter issued at Yakima on June 2:-

Apples	985½	Pears	11
Asparagus	43	Potatoes	435
Mixed fruits	1	Total:	1475½

From July 1, 1930, to the end of April, 1931, about 44,770 cars had been inspected at shipping points.

4c. REVISED CITRUS CIRCULAR

Copies of the revised receiving-point inspection circular on Citrus Fruits were sent to all inspectors last week. If anyone was overlooked in this distribution, he should request a copy from the Washington office.

5c. MEASURING LENGTH OF PEA PODS

In some cases, green peas have been sold with a definite specification as to the length of the pods expressed in inches. The question has arisen as to how this should be measured. The length of the pods means the overall length from the tip to the point of attachment with the stem. Some pods have long tips but, as a rule, the length of the tip is of no consequence and would seldom, if ever, amount to more than 1/8 inch. The length of the pods should be reported to the nearest quarter inch. For example: "ranging from 1-1/2 to 3-1/2 inches, mostly 2 to 2-1/4 inches in length." When only an occasional specimen is above or below, it should not be taken as the extreme, because the number of such would be so small as to be of no importance. The pods should be measured and the length reported, only when the applicant specifically requests a report on the length of the pods. The terms "small," "medium," and "large" cannot be used in this connection, because no definite dimensions have been established for these terms as applied to the length of pea pods.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING MAY, 1931.

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined For Lack of Time	Total Fees
Atlanta	42	61	0	2	$ 163.00
Baltimore	93	53	19	1	342.50
Birmingham	4	-	0	0	10.50
Boston	395	518	283	0	1,211.31
Buffalo	37	28	1	0	142.09
Chicago	192	188	1	0	861.34
Cincinnati	41	61	1	0	174.34
Cleveland	86	36	21	0	419.71
Columbus	28	34	1	0	143.54
Dallas	19	-	3	0	82.15
Denver	49	58	3	0	205.14
Des Moines	17	-	0	0	89.45
Detroit	114	138	0	0	487.23
Fort Worth	5	11	0	0	19.50
Harrisburg	8	2	2	2	38.86
Indianapolis	28	19	0	0	112.65
Jacksonville	36	6	0	0	136.50
Kansas City	88	58	37	3	351.50
Los Angeles	11	9	7	0	49.00
Louisville	24	-	0	0	108.00
Memphis	39	31	31	1	170.00
Milwaukee	211	199	147	0	636.08
Minneapolis	44	25	2	0	167.50
Newark	93	95	14	5	349.18
New Haven	81	57	6	0	377.56
New Orleans	117	130	18	0	175.00
New York	1,195	961	693	12	3,662.81
Norfolk	8	14	0	0	32.00
Omaha	114	89	92	1	331.65
Philadelphia	216	322	1	1	719.16
Pittsburgh	104	422	3	3	438.65
Portland	7	12	3	0	39.50
Providence	44	49	1	0	186.70
Rochester	14	15	0	0	91.47
St. Louis	257	172	179	1	758.57
Salt Lake City	4	3	1	0	16.00
San Francisco	13	5	6	0	37.80
Seattle	7	1	1	0	29.00
Springfield	40	56	17	0	185.15
Toledo	11	32	0	0	43.94
Trenton	3	14	0	0	12.00
Tulsa	5	-	0	0	56.15
Washington	47	41	3	0	267.10
W ilkes-Barre	41	36	23	5	133.20
TOTAL	4,032	4,061	1,620	37	$14,064.48

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:- Total 2,109: 617 Pennsylvania, 34 B.& O., 1,221 Nickel Plate, 3 Erie, 61 Kroger's, 24 Federal Cold Storage.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING MAY, 1931

Symbols:- N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

STATIONS	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED N	M	Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED N	M	TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED N	M	"Cuts" made to comply with specifications N	M	Items Billed Short-Weight N	M
CHARLESTON	246210	0	4044	0	250254	0	625	0	0	0
NEWPORT	12707	0	1624	0	14331	0	50	0	0	0
NEW YORK	536379	67235	19004	1708	555383	68943	573	0	0	0
NORFOLK	142053	0	0	0	142053	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	574564	23321	4721	0	579285	23321	674	76	0	0
SAN PEDRO	646507	0	13440	0	659947	0	207	0	0	0
VALLEJO	112161	20761	11910	754	124071	21515	65	0	0	0
WASHINGTON	10230	0	220	0	10450	0	175	0	0	0
TOTALS **	2280811	111317	54963	2462	2335774	113779	2369	76	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD										
NEW YORK	7720		310		8030		0		0	
NORFOLK	8805		0		8805		0		0	
TOTALS	16525		310		16835		0		0	
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL										
CHICAGO	97676		37553		135229		0		0	
MILWAUKEE	17090		3360		20450		0		0	
NEW YORK	140010		5511		145521		0		0	
PHILADELPHIA	55777		7843		63620		0		0	
TOTALS	310553		54267		364820		0		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:

	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines ;	99022	265755	3145
Munson S. S. Line	17399	44220	1004
Dollar Line . . . ;	10243	30105	384
American France Line	3428	19516	232
American Diamond Line	4348	20904	100
American Brazil Line	790	5215	0
Tampa Interocean S.S.Co.	184	401	0
	135414	386116	4865

The San Pedro office also inspected 3154 lbs. bread; 5314 lbs. butter, and 420 lbs. cheese for the Navy.

** To the totals, as given above, should be added the following, received late:-

SAN DIEGO	620223 / 54288	5115 / 642	625338 / 54930	1146 / 221	0 / 0

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	June 30
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	June 30
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, P. O. Box 166, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	June 30
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 1
OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, 304 Manhattan Bldg., Muskogee, Okla.	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	July 15
NORTH CAROLINA:	G. R. Warren, c/o State Div. of Markets, Raleigh, N. C.	Potatoes	June 1	June 27
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	July 15
VIRGINIA:	H. H. Henderson, 304 Southern Produce Building, Norfolk, Va.	Potatoes	June 1	July 1
	Robert Bier, Cape Charles, Va.	Potatoes	June 8	July 10

Reports on Arkansas peaches can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Van Buren, Arkansas.

6c. USE OF PERSONALLY-OWNED AUTOMOBILES AT OFFICIAL STATIONS

On June 30, 1931, the authority under which a mileage rate for the use of personally-owned automobiles at official stations has been allowed will be discontinued. Employees so using personally-owned automobiles should bear this in mind and incur no expense of this nature, for which reimbursement will be expected, after June 30.

7c. NAMES TO BE CANCELLED FROM LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following names should be taken from the June 1 list of Past-Due Accounts:

Cianciolo Brothers,	1132 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio	$ 4.00
H. Krinick,	109 French St., New Brunswick, N. J.	$ 4.97
Davis Fruit Company,	1440 S. Racine Ave., Chicago, Ill.	$ 8.00
F. B. Todd & Sons,	Lansing, Mich.	$17.33

8c. SUPERVISING INSPECTORS, PLEASE NOTE:

The annual report for the Chief of the Bureau has been requested somewhat earlier than usual. It is important that Supervising Inspectors of the shipping-point work in the various States submit their June reports to the Washington office very promptly. All reports for the fiscal year should be in our hands not later than July 6 or 7. Please bear this request in mind.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman expects to leave Washington this Saturday for Detroit. He will confer with local representatives of the F. & V. Division and on Tuesday will address the Food and Nutrition Division of the American Home Economics Association, which will be in convention there early next week. Mr. Sherman's subject is:- "Food Supplies and Consumers' Habits."

Wendell Calhoun plans to make a field trip, beginning next Monday. He will confer with representatives of the Market News Service in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, returning to his desk about July 1.

B. C. Boree returned on Thursday morning from his southern field trip in the interest of the News Service.

W. D. Hull arrived in Washington on Thursday and is now assisting with the work on market reports in the Washington office.

M. W. Baker, of the Columbus inspection office, will be on annual leave and on field trips to start the shipping-point inspection work in Ohio from June 22 to July 10. Grover Clyde, of the Chicago staff, will substitute for Mr. Baker during these three weeks.

E. E. Conklin, of the Chicago inspection office, was in Tennessee on Tuesday in the interest of shipping-point inspection work.

(OVER)

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

H. V. DeMott, of the Domestic Wool section, in the Earle Bldg., has been granted three months' leave without pay, effective June 16. He plans to be at his home in Metuchen, N. J.

W. Gary Thompson closed the Monett, Mo., field station on Wednesday and has now returned to the Chicago office of the News Service.

PORTLAND, OREGON, office of the Market News Service (J. D. Hamilton, in charge) will move on June 27 to 425 Railway Exchange Bldg., Portland. Please make note of this change of address on all copies of the Market Station Address List. The telephone number will remain unchanged. Mail for Mr. Hamilton should be plainly marked: "Fruit and Vegetable Division," because other divisions of the Bureau will likewise be moved to this building.

C. D. Schoolcraft, now in charge of the Detroit office of the Market News Service, has advised that his residence address in Detroit is 1415 Hubbard Avenue; phone LaFayette 6290. Please make this addition to your Market Station Address List.

H. A. Arenz, of the Milwaukee office, advises that many of the house numbers in that city have recently been changed. On your copy of the Inspectors' Address List (dated April 20), please change Mr. Arenz' residence address from 695 Murray Ave. to 2847 North Murray Ave. On the Market Station Address List (dated Nov. 1), make the same change on page 4 of the list.

(continued from Page 394)

16b. TWO ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES

Two additional summaries of field deals have been recently issued:-
"Marketing Northwestern Celery," by J. D. Hamilton, at the Portland office.
"Marketing Washington Lettuce, 1930 Season," by T. R. Hall, at Seattle office.
Copies of these summaries can be obtained directly from the two offices mentioned.

17b. REVISED "NI" (PEACHES) PAGE OF CODE (Effective June 26)

Under separate cover, copies of the revised "NI" (Peaches) page of the code will be mailed to all who have code books. If any office fails to get its required number of copies within a day or two, please notify the Washington office by wire, as this revision becomes effective on June 26.

B. C. B.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMEN OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 26 June 26, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. PROSPECTS FOR EXPANSION OF PORTO RICAN INSPECTION SERVICE

Some interesting facts are presented by A. S. Mason, Federal Supervising Inspector, in a letter of June 19 from San Juan, Porto Rico:-

"English receivers are using to the fullest extent our Government inspection service. I saw a cable yesterday and another one today, telling of sales made on the basis of Government inspection on grapefruit that is still at sea and will not be unloaded in Liverpool until the 22nd of this month. These are not small sales, but sales of 1,000 and 1,500 box lots. As I wrote you sometime ago, one firm in England contracted for 100,000 boxes of grapefruit on the basis of Government inspection here. All Porto Rican sales of the American Fruit Growers, with one exception, are being made f.o.b. San Juan, on the basis of Government inspection certificates. The English firm is reselling this fruit in Germany, France and Holland on the basis of Government inspection certificates issued here. Aside from fruit shipped by the American Fruit Growers from Porto Rico, in the past there has been no attempt to grade shipments to the British Empire, with the result that, as soon as Florida started shipping heavily, Porto Rico had to drop out of the picture. But it is my belief that, with the proper grading of this fruit, they will create enough demand in Europe to warrant shipments all during the winter.

"I am not alone in this opinion. An important steamship company is planning to increase their space available for fruit to be shipped this fall and winter direct to Europe. Just how great this increase of space will be is not exactly certain, but it appears that it will be about 40% or 50%.

"Yesterday, shipments of grapefruit amounted to about 30,000 boxes, of which we inspected 24,523. Next week space applications on two boats, amounting to approximately 51,000 boxes, are now in, of which growers using inspection service will have about 46,000. So far this month we have inspected 77% of the total shipments, and just as long as we can hold this percentage I am very well satisfied.

"This week, we have been approached by growers of approximately 450,000 crates of pineapples, asking us when we would be in position to handle their work. I would like to have a satisfactory grade compiled as soon as possible.

"During the past month, there havebeen several New York receivers of vegetables down here, looking over the prospects of financing vegetable growing, especially tomatoes and peppers, and it appears very probable that three firms will finance about 800 acres of peppers and tomatoes. They signify a desire to have inspection on all of this stock. In addition to this, there are raised by local growers about 125,000 packages of miscellaneous vegetables yearly, which are largely handled through one cooperative association and mostly marketed through one firm in New York. They are also desirous of inspection.

"Most of these vegetables are grown around Isabela, about 100 miles

west of here. It is an irrigated section and has, from time to time, raised some very good vegetables but has never made a satisfactory grade or pack. These vegetables are all grown by Porto Ricans, who speak no English and have from one-acre to ten-acre plots. I have been out over the ground and find that the district is concentrated enough to make inspection a paying proposition. This work, however, will have to be handled by local inspectors, trained by me, who can talk Spanish.

"Shipments of grapefruit to United States will be largely cut off after the first of November, but it seems to be the general opinion that, between November 1 and March 31, there will be a European movement of approximately 200,000 boxes. In addition to this, there will be about 150,000 crates of pineapples, shipment of which will start about the first of October. If the vegetable growers raise a crop, it appears that there will be a total of about 500,000 or 600,000 packages to be inspected between November 1 and March 31. It now appears that inspection work here will probably develop into a year-round proposition. It may be of interest to know that the Insular Government guarantees the payment of any inspection fees on vegetables grown by local Porto Ricans."

2a. LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONE CHARGES

We have been advised by the Business Manager of the Bureau that an analysis of the long-distance telephone charges incurred during the past fiscal year indicates that our expenditures for this item are running considerably higher than during the previous fiscal year.

It is requested that officers in charge of field offices give this matter particular attention and make sure that no unnecessary long-distance telephone charges are incurred. This should not be interpreted as instruction to curtail any long-distance calls necessary for the purpose of securing f.o.b. reports in connection with the Market News Service.

3a. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

During the past week, the following summaries of field deals have been issued from the Washington office:-

"Marketing Eastern Shore Cucumbers, 1930 Season," by V. H. Nicholson.
"Marketing Tennessee Tomatoes, 1930 Season," by H. E. Rutland.
"Marketing Colorado Lettuce, Cauliflower, Green Peas and Cabbage, 1930 Season," by Bryce Morris.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. PRICES OF EASTERN SHORE POTATOES DROP SHARPLY

V. H. Nicholson sent the following report from Pocomoke City, Md., on June 23:-

"Shipments of Eastern Shore potatoes amounted to over 700 cars last week. While the movement from Eastern Shore was comparatively light, shipments from other sections, particularly North Carolina, were heavy and Eastern Shore shippers faced a declining market all week. Last Monday there were a few f.o.b. sales at mostly $2.25 per barrel. By Saturday night, the price had declined to mostly $2, with a few sales at slightly lower prices.

"The market weakened from 10¢ to 25¢ yesterday, a rather sharp drop for Monday. Shipments from all sections were rather light, but, with most sales of North Carolina and Eastern Shore stock at only $1.50-$1.75 in New York, the f.o.b. market here weakened to $1.75-$1.90. Indications are that the price will go lower today. (Editor's note:- Prices dropped to $1.75).

"Most shippers feel that the lowest prices of the season will be reached this week and that there will be a general recovery after North Carolina has cleaned up. A fairly heavy movement is expected from both North Carolina and the Eastern Shore this week. The Eastern Shore will probably ship 2,000 to 2,500 cars, but, if weather conditions were just right, movement might possibly exceed 2,500 carlots.

"Distribution has been only fair. Most shipments have gone to cities in Pennsylvania, New York and the New England States. Canadian points have been taking several cars, particularly Montreal and Toronto. A few cars have been billed to Ohio, Michigan and Indiana points, but this middle-western movement has been light. Probably one-third of the total Eastern Shore shipments have been billed to diversion points, such as Edge Moor (Delaware), Pitcairn, Buffalo, New Haven and Bridgeport. In addition to this movement to diversion points, there have been a few cars held on Eastern Shore sidings each day, but I do not believe such holdings have been heavy yet this season."

2b. EASTERN TEXAS TOMATOES PAST PEAK

The following letter of June 21 was received from W. D. Googe, at Jacksonville, Texas:-

"The East Texas tomato deal probably passed its peak last week, although shipments are expected to be heavy during the coming week. Last Tuesday (June 16), this section of the State shipped 347 cars, which is said to be the record day's movement. It is doubtful if there will be another day when as many cars will be shipped, but some believe the total for the coming week may be as great as that for last week. Most of the sections north of Jacksonville have just begun.

"In spite of the heavy movement, prices were decidedly upward during the last three days of the week. Dealers were generally unable to fill their orders. This was accounted for by the unusually hot weather in most consuming centers. It is now believed that the 1931 deal will not be as unsatisfactory financially as was at first expected, although prices have been low in comparison with those of other seasons."

3b. INTERESTING NEWS ON LOUISIANA CROPS

J. W. Coleman sent the following report from New Orleans under date of June 22:-

"The potato season in Louisiana has been very disappointing from a financial standpoint. Over 4,200 cars have moved to date, as compared to a final total of 2,326 cars last season. Prices on an f.o.b. usual terms basis at Louisiana loading points ranged 85¢-$1.25, with most sales 90¢-$1 per 100-pound sack of U.S.No. 1 Bliss Triumphs. Many growers sold field-run potatoes as low as 50¢ per cwt.

"Local operators expected a good demand for Louisiana Creole onions. However, prices have been very low in American markets, and Cleveland has been quoting Creole onions as low as prices here in New Orleans. Canada and Panama have taken several cars of these onions.

"Louisiana corn is showing effects of the drouth in some areas, and shipments are expected to be light. Only a few cars have moved this season, but offerings are liberal on the New Orleans market, with growers' sales averaging around $1 per hundred ears. Other Louisiana vegetables will be rather plentiful for home markets, but carlot shipments are expected to be light for the remainder of the season.

"One New Orleans dealer has tried something new with watermelons. He places about half a car in his cold-storage rooms and sells the melons to retailers in lots of 20 to 30 melons. As the price is about the same as for melons on the tracks, the demand is good for this stock from cold storage. The first boat of Alabama watermelons arrived today, the load containing 5,000 melons."

4b. MISSISSIPPI TOMATOES DECLINE AND THEN ADVANCE AGAIN

J. B. Owens sent the following letter from Crystal Springs on June 21:-

"The movement of tomatoes from Mississippi during the past week fell a little short of the expected 1,000 cars. Haulings were heavy during the first part of the week, but, after the sharp decline in prices, shipments fell off considerably. On Monday (June 15) prices began to drop and, by Wednesday, the cash-track market was 35¢ on flats and 65¢ on lugs. These prices are about as low as the harvesting and packing operations will allow and, consequently, the haulings for the next few days were somewhat lighter. In the past, when practically all the stock was farm-packed, the growers usually experienced some difficulty in keeping their fields picked up to the proper stage of maturity, but now the fields are picked over each day and all the stock that the growers are not able to pack themselves is brought in bulk to the packing houses. Of course, the packing houses are not dependent on this stock for their volume, but it does help the percentage of lugs.

"The low prices caused a sharp increase im demand and, after Wednesday, the cash-track market advanced daily until on Saturday the prevailing price was 47½¢ on flats and 85¢ on lugs. There are several possible causes for this active demand: (1) the weather in the northern States has been very warm, which naturally increases the consumption of such food as tomatoes; (2) the low prices have made it possible for small towns to buy in carload lots, enabling a wide distribution; (3) brokers and distributers also bought freely for speculative purposes.

"The prospect the coming week is for a movement of around 900 cars,

provided sizes do not run small before the week is over. The market will, in all probability, decline again by Tuesday, as shipments will be fairly heavy on that day. I also understand that quite a number of last week's shipments are still in the hands of the large carlot distributors, who must, in turn, promptly dispose of their holdings in the smaller markets, many of which have already bought heavily direct from shipping point."

5b. ABOUT 740 CARS OF MELONS IN ONE DAY FROM IMPERIAL VALLEY

A.E.Prugh wrote as follows from Brawley, Calif., in a letter of June 22:-

"Cantaloupe, Honey Ball and Honey Dew shipments from Imperial Valley from June 15 to 21 totaled 3,386 cars, almost a 500-car day average for the period. Saturday, June 20, the Valley moved 182 cars of watermelons and 560 cars of cantaloupes and miscellaneous melons, a total for the day of 742 cars, which was probably the record day's movement in the history of production here.

"The f.o.b. cantaloupe market today has weakened to 75¢-85¢ per standard 45 crate, with a slow demand. Some sales are made 'straight across,' which is a straight price on standards and jumbos. The usual premium at these low prices is 15¢ on jumbo 45's. There was a slight advance to $1.25 last Thursday, when the New York market showed a little strength, but, after touching that figure, the price weakened under heavy shipments.

"The Perfectos have been yielding heavy. One shipper at El Centro picked 1,000 crates at the first picking on nine acres. However, the Perfecto season is usually short, as they ripen fast, and movement should start to decline in a few days. Some shippers have stopped shipping cantaloupes on account of the price, but the south end of the Valley has been having a heavy movement. When the price is 75¢, about the only reason for shipping is to use up the 'shook' or crate material, rather than carry it over to another season. No shortage developed on 'shook' as was expected last week.

"Demand for Honey Dews is slow and the market has been 45¢-60¢, mostly 50¢ on standard and jumbo crates. About 100 straight cars of Honey Dews have been moving each day.

"The price on Honey Balls has been holding up well on the New York market. The f.o.b. here lately has been mostly $1.25-$1.40, but dropped to $1.10-$1.25 today. Honey Ball shipments recently have been about 35 per day.

"The f.o.b. cash price on Klondike watermelons has been mostly $100-$125 per car of about 12½ tons. Today the market is around $100 per car. It costs $5.50 per ton to pick the melons and place them in the car. Shipments increased to 182 Saturday and are expected to continue heavy the remainder of the month. A few cars are going as far east as Nebraska points, but mostly to Western States, Pacific Coast States and Canada. Usually about one-third of the shipments are billed to Los Angeles. Weather on the Coast has been cool and unfavorable, but temperature in Los Angeles was higher today.

"During the past few days about five cars of Thompson Seedless grapes have moved daily from the Valley. Ten cars are expected out today.

"The Arizona cantaloupe season is very early this year. Yuma started on June 10 and Phoenix about the 15th. Total Arizona shipments jumped to 103 Sunday, the 21st, which apparently were divided 15 from Yuma and 88 from Phoenix. Our reports from Phoenix indicate a heavy movement the latter part of this week."

6b. PROLONGED RAINS DAMAGING NORTHWESTERN CROPS

T.R.Hall wired the following information from Seattle on June 17. It was inadvertently omitted from last week's D. L.:-

"Precipation each day since June 10 in the Puget Sound area has ranged from light mist to heavy showers, bringing total rainfall for this period near two inches. Rainy weather is proving detrimental to Iceberg lettuce; has practically ended the strawberry season, and delayed raspberry picking at Puyallup and vicinity. Shippers realize the hazard attached to eastern movement of Iceberg lettuce and only a few straight cars are being billed, mostly for short haul. I doubt whether many cars will be shipped to eastern markets again before next week. With clearing weather, green-pea harvest should become active and quality good, but should the present spell of rain be followed with cloudy damp days growers fear mildew. Limited movement of cauliflower and cabbage in mixed and straight cars. Cauliflower quality reasonably good for this district. Cherry movement from irrigated valleys of eastern Washington and northern Idaho sharply curtailed, account of split cherries and rain-damage. Bings and Royal Annswere both in condition for picking when rain started and are most seriously affected, with some Lamberts ripening a week to 10 days later possibly less severely injured. Western Oregon shipments will probably be curtailed 25% to 50%, according to estimates authentically expressed, but eastern Oregon districts, with maturity dates farther advanced and picking well under way, are less severely affected. Puyallup raspberry damage not yet determined."

7b. NEWS ITEMS FROM DENVER

Below are quoted parts of a letter of June 20 from B. E. Surry, who is temporarily in charge of the Denver market-news office:-

"A light crop of strawberries in Colorado has brought high prices to farmers the last few days. Yesterday, growers were asking as high as $5 for 24-pint crates. Supplies were cleaned up early each day. Today, three cars from Missouri arrived and were unloaded along with truck receipts amounting to 1,600 crates, and the market weakened to a range of $2.25-$2.75 for Colorado stock.

"I noticed a rather interesting item in a Denver paper three days ago. On that day, an airplane left Oregon at 3 A.M. for Denver, with a cargo of cherries, which were delivered to the local stores about 3 o'clock that same afternoon. The cherries were of good size and quality and were soon disposed of. If the fruit had traveled by rail, it would have come a distance of almost 1,500 miles. This merely indicates the possibilities of using airplanes, in the near future, for quick delivery of perishables to selected markets.

"Continued warm dry weather in Colorado has caused some concern regarding the danger of a drought again this summer. Some sections of the State report plenty of moisture and prospects for good crops; others claim that, if they fail to receive any more rain this summer, there will be considerable crop damage to be reported next fall."

WATERMELON production in seven second-early States may amount to only 40,000,000 melons this season, compared with 51,000,000 last year. Georgia expects only 21,000,000, as against 32,000,000 melons in 1930.

8b. MARKET BASKET SUGGESTIONS

The Home Institue page of the "Philadelphia Record" each day carries a boxed item, entitled; Market Basket Suggestions. This is prepared by the director of the Home Institute (Miss Wagner), on the basis of information which she obtains daily from our Philadelphia office by telephone. It calls attention to the products in heaviest supply at the time. Below are one or two samples, clipped from the "Record":-

"Do your strawberry canning now. The strawberry receipts today made a new record in the Philadelphia market. More truckloads of strawberries direct from the farms of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland have been received today than in any one day for four or five years. This plentiful supply of superfine berries is exceptionally reasonable, too. Buy your berries today and tomorrow and convert them into all kinds of delicious perserves for the winter use."

"Over 20 carloads of California salmon tinted cantaloupes are coming into the market daily. These small, round melons, of excellent quality and flavor, are priced low. According to all reports melons will be as plentiful all through the summer months as they were last year. Beans, both green and wax, from the Carolinas, and new pale green cabbage are excellent buys. Sweet corn is likely to be both plentiful and cheap this summer, judging from the supply and quality of the Texas and Florida sweet corn now on the market."

This page of the newspaper also gives menus and suggestions for meals, as well as an occasional article on the health value of various fruits or vegetables.

9b. ANOTHER REPORT ON THE RAIN DAMAGE IN NORTHWEST

J. S. Dennee, Agricultural Statistician at Seattle, Wash., sent the following report to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates on June 20:-

"Reports received up to present time reveal that cherry growers of central and eastern Washington will suffer loss as result of heavy and continued rainfall during past week. In some of the early sections, growers were more fortunate and had the bulk of their crops harvested before the rain started. Advice from the Milton-Freewater district indicates that the fruit remaining on the trees will be practically a complete loss. In the Wenatchee and Yakima districts, prospects are that tons of cherries will be left on the trees. Reports indicate that damage in the Lewiston-Clarkston district ranges from about 5% to 10%. Damage to cherries in the Yakima, Selah and lower Naches districts will range from 50% to 75%, while in the lower valley it will range from 40% to 50%. Where damage is above 50% of the crop, the returns scarcely justify the effort expended in gathering the fruit, according to growers. In vicinity of Cashmere, the rains of past two days have destroyed 90% of the cherry crop of that district, according to a rough estimate made by growers and shippers. Prospects for the peach and apricot crops in neighborhood of Benton City are good and the Yakima Valley peach crop will be, on the whole, considerably larger than that of last season."

10b. REVISED "KU" (CANTALOUPES) PAGE OF THE CODE, EFFECTIVE JULY 10

Under separate cover, there will be mailed copies of the revised "KU" (Cantaloupes) page of the code, to become effective on July 10. If anyone who has a code book fails to receive his or her copy of this page in due time, please advise the Washington office.

11b. NORTH CAROLINA POTATO SEASON CLOSING

R. L. Sutton sent the following report from Mt. Olive, N. C., under date of June 24:-

"The North Carolina potato season, which has been featured by high average yields and low prices, is now drawing to a close. There will be fairly active shipments for the balance of this week, but the month of June will see practically all of the North Carolina potatoes dug. The acreage was somewhat greater than last year, and the yield, at least in certain sections, is running much greater than in 1930. There are many cases in the Mt. Olive district, where the growers are digging 20 or 25 barrels to each barrel of seed planted, or 175 to 225 bushels per acre, on the basis of standard-width rows. The customary practice in this section is planting potatoes, with cotton in between, the potato rows being 5 to 6 feet apart.

"Growers have received $1.25-$1.75 per barrel for their stock. The farmers in most cases sell to the dealers for cash, either loading straight cars or joining together to fill out cars. All indications point to at least 1,000 more cars, with conservative estimates of the total movement exceeding 8,500 cars. Last year, the total shipments were 7,355 cars. The movement from the southeastern coastal sections has largely been completed; the Mt. Olive district will possibly ship an additional 400 cars, with the majority of the tonnage yet to be moved from the Elizabeth City section.

"The quality of this year's crop has been very satisfactory. Dealers, buyers and others associated with the industry all agree on the high class of the potatoes moving out of North Carolina this season."

H. F. Willson, in charge of the Elizabeth City field station, wrote the following letter also on June 24:-

"The North Carolina potato shipping season is near an end. Fairly heavy shipments from the Elizabeth City district are expected during the remainder of this week, with the fore part of next week being the wind-up. By June 23 this year 7,395 cars were shipped, as compared with 6,268 a year ago.

"Prices declined after the heavy shipments of last week and the prevailing f.o.b. usual-terms price for stave barrels of U.S.No. 1 stock is $1.50. Beginning the latter part of last week, there has been a marked increase in the demand for North Carolina potatoes in the Middle West. This demand occurred at a most opportune time, as all the eastern markets, with the possible exception of the New England States, were in liberal supply and demand was low. With the Norfolk and Eastern Shore sections of Virginia well started, the competition in the East is very keen, particularly as the season is on the wane here, with the resultant decline in quality."

11½b. NORTH CAROLINA APPLES COST 50¢ PER BUSHEL

Investigations by the Extension Horticulturist in the Brushy Mountain area of North Carolina indicate that the cost of growing apples to maturity in that section is 23¢ per bushel. Picking the crop cost 5¢ per bushel, and all overhead charges amounted to 22¢, making the total cost of one bushel 50¢. The four prominent growers, who furnished the cost data, had kept records on 7,250 trees from 8 to 20 years old.

12b. DETAILED INFORMATION NEEDED ON CONTAINERS

In the preparation of each confidential report by field men and each report of market station activities by market station men, it is requested that the following information be included regarding the containers in which the commodities, for which summaries are prepared, have been marketed during the season covered:

1. Types and sizes of containers used.

2. If crates or boxes, accurate inside dimensions (depth, width and length , the length measured at center of head, so as to disregard inside posts). Also a statement of type of construction, such as veneer or sawed shook, wire-bound, etc.

3. Net weight of contents, and gross shipping weight or customary billing weight.

4. Number of packages per carload, the range and usual or average number.

5. Approximate percentage of the total seasonal movement from the district in each type or size of container.

Some of this information has been furnished in the past but it is desired that it be furnished regularly hereafter. Members of the Standard Container Project have particularly requested such material, in order that they may keep informed as to the use or adoption of new containers in the different sections of the country. There are also numerous other requests and uses for such data.

Many important changes in the use of containers have taken place in recent years, among which might be mentioned the following: the adoption of the western lettuce crate in Texas and other southern producing districts, and the recent use of the half lettuce crate in the same areas; a shift from 6-basket and4-basket crates to lugs for tomatoes, and a similar shift with peaches from the 6-basket crates to bushel baskets and tubs, and recently the extensive use of the half-bushel basket; the remarkably rapid adoption of the 100-pound even-weight sack for potatoes and also an increasing use of small bags; 50-pound sacks for onions instead of larger-sized sacks or crates, etc. Such changes may be made gradually, or without attracting much attention, and later it is difficult to determine just when and how it all happened. A complete record, carried in each of the above-named reports, will, over a period of years, furnish most valuable information.

13b. MORE-IMPORTANT VARIETIES OF GEORGIA PEACHES NOW MOVING

The following letter came from R. E. Keller, at Macon, under date of June 20:-

"The Georgia peach situation hasn't changed much since last week. Except for light local showers, occurring over last week-end, the drought is continuing unabated. First Uneedas matured so small that they were barely merchantable, and now Early Rose are facing the same difficulties. The deal is likely to continue on a strictly commission basis until the peaches become large enough to sell. So far, f.o.b. sales of any description have been so scarce that it has been practically impossible to establish a shipping-point market.

"The Uneeda shipments will be completed by the middle of next week (June 24). The Early Rose variety will move mostly during next week; however, the final movement will extend into July. First shipments of Hileys are expected by the 25th of this month, with the movement getting into full swing by July 1. The maturity of this year's crop is fully a week behind last year's."

B. C. Boree, Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	July 11
			W-melons	June 1	July 11
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.*	May 21	June 17*
			Potatoes	June 12	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 6	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MT. OLIVE, N. C.** P. O. Box 266	810A	R. L. Sutton	Potatoes	June 4	June 27?
ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.** Chamber of Commerce	810	H. F. Willson	Potatoes	June 3	July 1
JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS**	811	W. D. Googe	Tomatoes	June 8	July 3
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 1
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	R. G. Risser	Cants.	June 25	July 25
MOULTRIE, GA.**	832	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 29	July 18
HUMBOLDT, TENN.**	806	J. B. Owens	Tomatoes	July 1	July 25
The following station probably will open on date indicated:					
CANDOR, N.C.**	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 8	July 30
The following stations close on dates indicated:					
CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MISS. City Hall	809	J. B. Owens	Vegs.	May 5	June 9
			Tomatoes	June 9	June 30
LEESBURG, FLA.** City Hall Bldg.	912	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 8	June 27

** States cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Denver
W. D. Hull in Washington
A. M. McDowell in St. Louis
W. G. Thompson in Chicago
H.E.Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. CERTIFICATION OF APPLES FOR EXPORT TO GREAT BRITIAN

The British embargo of 1930, prohibiting the importation of low grade American apples during the period July 7 to November 15, has been made permanent. The order permits the importation of only the higher grades of apples and any grade of barreled apples lower than U.S. No. 1 or any grade of boxed apples lower than Fancy is not permitted to enter the country. A special form of certificate is required, showing that each lot of apples meets one of the recognized grades. This certificate will be issued at the ports only and will not be issued at shipping point or any interior market.

The Special Certificate, specified by the British Apple Order, will be issued at ports of export only. This certificate will not be issued unless the packages are marked to show (1) the name and address of the packers, (2) the variety, (3) grade, and (4) minimum size. This information should appear in label, stamp, or stencil form, and unless all points have been included the Special Certificate will be refused. On lots which are incorrectly marked as to minimum size, the Special Certificate will not be issued until the packages are properly marked. Markings as to minimum size apply to eastern apples in barrels and baskets and to jumble-packed boxes but not to tier-packed apples in boxes, which are marked with the number of apples contained therein. A check mark should be placed after the name of the grades represented in a lot covered by the Special Form Certificate. In the case of combination grades, they will be certified as of the lower grade. This Special Certificate will be issued on the basis of the Export Form Certificate, subject to proper identification and check. When the Export Form Certificate is not obtained at shipping point, it may be obtained at the port, provided the apples meet all the requirements as to apple maggot and worms, and freedom from spray residue. Only those lots which meet the requirements of the grades specified in the order can be exported to Great Britian.

The fee for a special quarantine certificate, required on export shipments of apples to Great Britian between July 7 and November 15, 1931, shall be $1.00 when issued at United States ports and $4.00 when issued at Canadian ports. When inspection is made to determine grade or when samples are drawn for chemical analysis, the regular fee of $4.00 per car will be charged for the Export Form Certificate and no charge made for the Special Form Certificate. The fees are to apply when the special forms are issued on the basis of Export Form Certificates without actually making inspection of the fruit, except for the purpose of identification and check.

The applicant will probably desire the original and one copy of the speical form; one copy will be mailed to Washington, leaving two copies for the office files, the plan being to type five copies, including the ribbon copy and four carbons. No space is provided for recording the fee on this special form and it should not be shown on the original or any copies delivered to interested parties. This fee, however, should be recorded on one office file copy and on the copy sent to Washington. The following notations will be sufficient in this connection: "Fee $1.00" or "No charge." These special forms will be consecutively numbered.

TOMATOES in 10 intermediate States may total 5,871,000 bushels, or nearly one-fourth more than last season.

2c. EXPORT FORM CERTIFICATES

The policies governing the use of the Export Form Certificate, which was issued at shipping point last year, will be continued this year. In the boxed apple States, the fruit will have to pass the chemical test, as heretofore. In barreled apple States, the Export Form Certificate will indicate freedom from apple maggot and usual tolerance for other worms, except in certain districts where chemical analysis for spray residue will also be required. As to apple maggot, no tolerance is permitted; the fruit must be free from it. As to other worm damage, the regular tolerance provided in the higher grades only will be allowed (boxes, - the regular tolerance in Extra Fancy and Fancy; barrel State grades - U. S. Fancy and U. S. No. 1). Shipping-point inspectors in the East will refuse to issue Export Form Certificates on lots which show conspicuous residue on the cheeks of the apples, unless chemical analysis shows the residue to be less than the world tolerance of .01 grain per pound of fruit.

After November 15, it is expected that the use of the Export Form Certificate will be continued on the same basis as last year when the Special Form Certificate was not required at the ports. It has been decided that the Export Form will not be issued on Unclassified lots (which cannot be exported to Great Britian until after November 15), which show worms or open worm holes in excess of the tolerance for U. S. Fancy and U. S. No. 1.

3c. CROP NOTES FROM IDAHO

L. G. Schultz sent the following information in a letter of June 18 from Boise, Idaho:-

"I am leaving in the morning for the north and of the State and will be gone approximately a week. I expect to take a few days' leave while in the vicinity of Spokane, but will return to Boise not later than June 27.

"Cherry shipments have started at Lewiston and, aside from slight rain damage, a fair crop is expected. The cherry harvest has also started at Emmett and will begin at Payette next Monday, the 22nd. The quality at Emmett and Payette is most excellent, as they have had no rain or hail to date. The matter of price is undecided as yet. The only sales made to date were several cars of Bings at 8¢. An offer of 3½¢ for Royal Anns was received by an Emmett firm, and I understand that several cars will be shipped east, loose in lugs, mostly on consignment.

"Fresh pea shipments have been going forward steadily, originating at Emmett, Fruitland, Caldwell and Nampa. The quality has been excellent, although there have been no cars of straight Fancy stock. A few cars of lettuce have also been shipped, but except for that loaded at Nampa the quality has not been very good. There will be a few cars of early potatoes moved the latter part of the month, and shortly after the 4th of July the movement will be quite heavy, as there is a considerable acreage of Bliss Triumphs and Irish Cobblers in Idaho."

4c. REVISED GRADES FOR SAWDUST-PACK GRAPES

With this D. L., all inspectors will receive copies of the revised Federal Standards for Sawdust-Pack Grapes. If anyone is overlooked in this distribution, he should at once request a copy of the grades.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	July 10
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	July 10
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, P. O. Box 166, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	July 15
MISSISSIPPI:	F. S. Kinsey, Crystal Springs, Miss.	Vegetables	Apr. 20	July 3
OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, 304 Manhattan Bldg., Muskogee, Okla.	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	July 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	July 15
VIRGINIA:	H. H. Henderson, 304 Southern Produce Building, Norfolk, Va.	Potatoes	June 1	July 1
	Robert Bier, Cape Charles, Va.	Potatoes	June 8	July 10
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agri., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Tomatoes	July 1	July 25

Reports on Arkansas peaches can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Van Buren, Arkansas.

5c. INSPECTION OF GEORGIA PEACHES

The following minimum sizes for U. S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 have been adopted under the "Georgia Peach and Apple Standardization Act" for the 1931 season, effective June 24:-

Early Rose	1 5/8 inches	Georgia Belles	1 7/8 inches
Carmans	1 7/8 "	Elbertas	2 "
Hileys	1 3/4 "	Hales	2 "

All peaches that do not meet with the above requirements must be shipped as "U.S.No. 2," "Unclassified" or "Georgia Commercial." The requirements of the latter grade of fruit are specified in the following telegram, recently received from O. G. Strauss:-

"Commercial grade shall consist of one variety, mature, firm, free from decay, worms, worm-holes, with 25% tolerance. It allows minor defects but not to exceed 25% serious."

Attention is called to the fact that no minimum sizes are specified in the U. S. grades and to the fact that some cars, which meet U.S. No. 1 requirements, may not meet Georgia U.S. No. 1 on account of being undersized in accordance with minimum sizes prescribed under the Standardization Act.

In cases where the packages are stamped "Georgia Commercial " and the peaches meet all the requirements of the U. S. grades but do not comply with the minimum size standard of the Georgia law, the following statement is being used by shipping-point inspectors: "Stock grades U.S. No. 1 but fails to meet Georgia size requirements for U.S. No. 1." The form of grade statement, which has been adopted in Georgia, should also be followed by receiving-point inspectors.

6c. INSPECTION WORK ON PEACHES AND WATERMELONS IN GEORGIA

O. G. Strauss wrote the following letter from Macon, Ga., on June 19:-

"It seems as if this deal will never get going. Early Rose shipments were supposed to start the first week in June, and they will move this week and next. We are still shipping some Uneedas, and it does not seem now that Hileys will start before the 25th and probably not until a few days later.

"It is very difficult to make a guess on what is going to happen, but at the present time there is practically no market, because of the small size. Over half of the peaches going out now are 1-5/8 inches and smaller. There have been a few showers but now enough to materially affect the crop. Elbertas still have a good chance to take on size, but unless we get some more rain real soon the Hileys will also be small.

"The State is figuring on placing minimum size requirements on varieties starting with Hileys; this will probably be 1-3/4 inches on Hileys and 2 inches on Elbertas. Packages stamped U.S. No. 1 or U.S. No. 2 must then be this size or larger, and those smaller must be stamped 'unclassified.'

"We are inspecting over 50% of the movement at the present, and this percentage will increase materially when we get into Hileys. We have now about 9,000 cars on which inspection has been requested and, with favorable conditions, this can jump to 11,000 but, with unfavorable conditions continuing, it can drop materially.

"The State Bureau of Markets has requested that we make some inspections on watermelons, and we will probably start sometime next week in extreme South Georgia. Our plan is to select certain large shipping points, placing inspectors at these points and not making inspections in the outlying vicinity. These inspectors would each have two or three helpers to do the actual weighing of watermelons which would allow the inspector more time to inspect for quality and, in that way, he will be able to issue more certificates each day."

7c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to Past-Due Accounts:-

Gledhill and Putnam,	Avoca, New York	$9.70

The following names should be taken off the list of Past-Due Accounts:-

Boll, J.W.C.	Durant, Oklahoma	$4.00
Bill Parvin Company	Yakima, Washington	$4.00
Martin, Jesse,	Robstown, Texas	$1.00

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

On Tuesday night, Edward L. Roberts, General Manager and Secretary of the National League of Commission Merchants, died at his home in Washington. Funeral services were conducted yesterday in a local church, and burial will be at Granville, N. Y. For a number of years, Mr. Roberts was employed in the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates in this Bureau and later in our own Fruit and Vegetable Division. He had been with the National League for possibly 10 years, being promoted to his high executive position several years ago. Mr. Roberts had many friends in our Bureau, who regret his passing. He had been in ill health for several months.

F. G. Robb went to Orono, Maine, the early part of this week, where he attended the New England Institute of Cooperation, held at the Agricultural College. He was on the program for two addresses Wednesday on the subjects:- "The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act in Operation" and "What Consumers in Northeastern United States Want for Potatoes."

J. W. Park left Washington on Sunday for a two weeks' investigational trip in northeastern States. He is conferring with officials of the fruit and vegetable auction companies and with representatives of this Division, in order to obtain data on the basis of which the Department Bulletin 1362 will be revised and brought up to date.

R. G. Hill returned last Saturday from his southeastern trip because of illness, and has been confined to his home since his return. He made investigations for the Standardization Project in the blueberry producing sections of North Carolina and in peanut districts of the Southeast.

H. J. Clay, in charge of market reports in the Washington office, left last Sunday on his vacation. He is motoring with his family to Niagara Falls and Chicago, after which he will go to points in Kentucky before returning to Washington.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Brice Edwards returned some days ago from his southern trip for the Regulatory Branch of the F. & V. Division, and has since gone to New York City to handle matters connected with the enforcement of the P. A. C. Act in that market and vicinity.

Herbert Graff made trips to Richmond and Roanoke, Va., this week, for the purpose of inspecting products in those markets.

W. E. Phillips, of the Toledo inspection office, spent this week in Chicago, where he assisted with the rush of inspection work.

It is understood that W. A. Hilgeson, who substituted recently in the Memphis inspection office, and D. C. Beeler, who substituted in Kansas City, have returned to their headquarters in Chicago.

M. A. Russell, of the Chicago inspection staff, left on Wednesday night for southern Illinois, where he spent the last three days of the week, making arrangements for shipping-point inspection work on apples.

W. J. Bertush went to Humboldt, Tenn., from Chicago last night, and will conduct a training class for tomato inspectors on Friday and Saturday, preparatory to the season's inspection work on this product in western Tennessee. His headquarters will be at Humboldt for about a month.

F. S. Zimmerman has gone from New York City to Dover, Del., where he will supervise the shipping-point inspection work on apples for the next two months.

G. R. Warren has completed his supervision of shipping-point inspections on North Carolina potatoes and will return to the New York office, where he will assist with inspection work until he goes to northern Maine on potatoes. He visited the Washington office today.

R. M. Peterson will close the Leesburg, Fla., field station on watermelons this Saturday and proceed to Moultrie, Ga., where he will continue to issue market reports on this product. The Moultrie station will take the place of the office operated in former seasons at Thomasville or Valdosta, Ga.

J. B. Owens will complete his period of service at Crystal Springs, Miss., next Tuesday and proceed to Humboldt, Tenn., where he will issue market reports on western Tennessee tomatoes.

R. G. Risser yesterday opened the news service on cantaloupes at Phoenix, Arizona. He had been on vacation at various points in southern California.

T. C. J. Baker, of the Standard Container project, went to Philadelphia a few days ago to investigate a complaint concerning alleged non-standard containers for berries.

W. L. Evans, of the Regulatory Branch in Washington, spent one day recently in Philadelphia, testifying in a case under the Produce Agency Act.

It is expected that R. L. Sutton will close the potato field station at Mt. Olive, N. C., this Saturday, after which he will come to the Washington office for a short period, before going out on relief duty.

On completion of his training in inspection work in Chicago at the end of this week, M. M. Thomas will return to his headquarters in St. Louis and then go on two weeks' leave. A. M. McDowell will continue to handle the St. Louis market-news work during this period.

E. T. Garlick in Philadelphia and Samuel Leitzer in New York City have been given their usual temporary appointments, for the purpose of securing auction prices in those markets during the next few months.

The inspectors' training class, which has been in operation in Chicago for the past six weeks, will be closed this Saturday. Members of the class will move as follows:

- Robert B. Emery will proceed to the New York office of the Inspection Service, where he will be located for the present.
- Charles L. Packard will go to the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., office and relieve R. B. Donaldson, while the latter is on vacation. About July 15, Mr. Packard will open a new inspection office at Scranton, Pa.
- Kenneth R. Slamp will go to the Harrisburg, Pa., inspection office and assist with the work conducted from that point.
- L. C. Tate proceeds to the Minneapolis office, where he has been permanently assigned to assist R. M. Ferguson.
- M. M. Thomas returns to the St. Louis market-news office, which is his permanent headquarters.
- R. C. Hastings will return to his work for the State at Fargo, N.Dak.
- T. M. Patterson likewise will return to his State work in Mississippi.

The PHILADELPHIA offices of the F. & V. Division are moving this Saturday, June 27, to the Mariner and Merchant Building, 3rd and Chestnut Streets. Inspection Service will be in Room 609 and Market News in Room 614. Please at once note this change of location on the Market Station Address list and the Inspectors' Address List. The telephone numbers remain unchanged.

The branches of the leased wire to Jacksonville, Fla.; Jackson, Miss.; New Orleans, La., and San Antonio, Texas, will be discontinued for the season on June 30, - next Tuesday.

Aaron Stambaugh, local market reporter in Washington, will be on 10 days' leave, beginning July 1. During his absence, W. D. Hull will report the local market.

Next Saturday, July 4, will be observed as a holiday in all offices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GRADING SERVICE

Announcement was made some weeks ago that the grading service on canned fruits and vegetables would become a new project in the Fruit and Vegetable Division on July 1, with Paul M. Williams, of the Warehouse Division, as Project Leader.

The development of this standardization and grading work was placed in this Division, because the new activity is akin to our present inspection service and it was believed that our large force of inspectors and market-news men may be used in drawing samples and handling other matters incident to this work. Available funds make it probable that canned food inspectors can be placed in but few markets; nevertheless, every office in this Division will be expected to handle requests for grading, even though it is not a grading point. Applications should be accepted, samples drawn as outlined herein and forwarded to the nearest canned goods grading office. For a few weeks, all samples should be sent to Washington, addressed to this Department, Room 7 - 127 - Building "F", 7th and B Sts., N. W. The samples will be graded in Washington and certificates forwarded the applicant. This procedure should be explained to each applicant for inspection. Until otherwise advised, the cost will be $3.00 per sample, plus expressage, for all inspections made or samples shipped direct to Washington by the applicant, or $5.00 per sample if the sample is drawn by a member of our force.

As soon as possible, the regulations for the new service will be sent you, with more detailed instructions for sampling. For the present, samples are to be drawn at the rate of one can from each 1,000 cans in any lot of No. 3 size cans and smaller, and one can from each 300 cans of No. 10 size. The sample must be representative of the lot. Every portion of the lot should be sampled, top, sides, bottom, and interior of the lot, stack, or carload.

With each lot of samples, there should be forwarded to the grading office the usual application form, describing the lot from which the samples were drawn. Such forms will be furnished as soon as possible.

Every employee will bear in mind that this new activity is as much a part of the work of the Division as is his regular work. It is an entirely new field, with interesting and important possibilities. It begins with little money and must have the cordial assistance and good will of all of us. There will seldom be a case so urgent that we must neglect any regular duty to attend to it. In most cases, it will not be imperative to ship the sample on the day the request is received, although prompt service always makes friends for the Department.

In the near future a few members of the present staff may be trained to make these inspections. Eventually a considerable percentage of the force may be qualified. This project is likely to have its short and busy seasons. Thereafter, it may furnish a valuable fill-in activity for many inspection offices, thus helping to make our whole Inspection Project more nearly self-supporting.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. SAVINGS TO BE EFFECTED DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR

On account of the deficit in the U.S. Treasury at the close of last fiscal year, the Administration has adopted a policy for decreasing expenditures for its regular work during the new fiscal year. All departments and individual offices have been requested to make a saving during this year, - in other words, to turn back as large a percentage of their appropriations as found possible, consistent with the essential work to be handled.

The Fruit and Vegetable Division is being requested to operate on allotments approximately $150,000 less than anticipated for the present fiscal year. While most of this sum will be deducted from appropriations for new work, all units of the Division must necessarily participate to some extent. We hope not to curtail any regular activity, but purchases, travel and other controllable expenditures must be held down to the minimum. It is requested that all offices watch their costs closely and avoid incurring any obligations not actually essential to the successful carrying on of the work.

In furthering the interests of economy for this fiscal year, the Department has adopted the policy of "No promotions." In general, vacancies will be filled only when absolutely necessary.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

3a. SUMMARIES RECENTLY ISSUED

The Washington office this past week issued another field summary:- "Marketing Utah Peaches, 1930 Season," by Leonard S. Fenn, of Salt Lake City.

The San Francisco office issued a summary:- "Marketing California Fresh Peaches, 1930 Season," by C. J. Hansen and O. W. Holmes.

4a. LOUISIANA STRAWBERRIES

An editorial in the Miami Herald for June 19 says: "Figures just made public show that the present strawberry season in Louisiana has broken all records--broken them to smithereens. The region devoted to the luscious red fruit produced 4,721 cars this year, which is 1,800 carloads more than were shipped in 1929, the previous record year. This year's tremendous crop was produced on about the same acreage as was planted last year, which means the yield was just twice what it was in 1930. This year's crop brought $9,000,000 to the growers, the average return per acre being $375, though many acres did twice as well...So here is a hand across the gulf to the strawberry parishes of Louisiana. They begin when Florida quits. May they always do their work as well as they did this year. There can't be too many strawberries."

5a. HANDLING CALIFORNIA CELERY CROP

The May, 1931, monthly bulletin of the California State Department of Agriculture contains a 14-paged article by W. R. Stay and F. C. Cadwallader on the subject: "Handling California Celery Crop." It is illustrated by a series of excellent photographs and charts. Copies can probably be obtained from the Department at Sacramento.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. SOUTHERN TEXAS MELON CROP SAVED BY TIMELY RAINS

M. G. Longino, of the San Antonio office, sent the following report under date of June 29:-

"Heavy rains visited the southern Texas watermelon districts during the past week-end, and, while nearly a week too late for the older vines, the rains will greatly help the young crop and increase the tonnage accordingly. It is doubtful whether 500 cars would have moved, as the vines were burning fast, but now the estimate is 1,000 cars or more for Pleasanton, Stockdale and nearby points.

"Quality of the melons shipped has been very good, with very little diseased stock showing up. Most shippers were not overly anxious to harvest their melons this season because of the low opening prices and, as a result, very few green melons were shipped.

"The demand for Texas Tom Watsons has been rather active, due in part to the light shipments. Practically all loadings were sold before they rolled and I have not heard of a car that was consigned. Demand for Dales, however, has been slow and for several days it was almost impossible to sell them. They have been discounted 10¢-20¢ per cwt. under the prevailing f.o.b. prices for Watsons.

"Cash buyers opened the season at Pleasanton by paying around 80¢ per cwt. for 30-pound average Tom Watsons, with 5¢ differential per pound average, up and down. This price held fairly steady until it was impossible to reach the terminal consuming centers for the July 4th trade; then the price dropped sharply to around 55¢-60¢. Usual terms prices have been from 20¢ to 35¢ per cwt. higher than the cash prices."

2b. RECENT NEWS ON COLORADO LETTUCE

B. E. Surry wrote as follows from the Denver office in a letter of June 27:-

"Lettuce shipments from Colorado increased slightly during the past week, averaging about 15 cars daily. Demand was generally good the first part of the week, with crates of Iceberg selling at $2.50-$3 on an f.o.b. usual terms basis. The seed now being used is supposed to have heat-resistant advantages, but the continued hot weather has done considerable damage and the growing lettuce is not doing well. Shipments next week may be even less than this week, on account of the anticipated increase in movement of mixed cars from this section. Since the cabbage crop is late this year, it will be necessary to fill out quite a number of cars with lettuce. The lettuce from the Mountain section is expected to move in a small way around July 20. The decrease in demand lowered the top price today to $2.75 per crate. However, some orders have been booked for next week's delivery at $2.50-$2.85. The quality of Colorado lettuce, thus far, has been very satisfactory except for solidity. Cars are grading mostly firm to fairly firm, with some soft. Most shipments would grade 70% to 80% U.S. No. 1."

ONIONS in seven intermediate States this year may amount to 2,629,000 bushels, or nearly 30% more than last summer. All States show increases.

3b. MOVEMENT OF EASTERN SHORE POTATOES DELAYED

The following letter of June 30 came from V. H. Nicholson at the Pocomoke City field station:-

"Rain last Tuesday night slowed the movement of Eastern Shore potatoes and total shipments last week amounted to slightly over 1,900 carlots, or a little under the expected movement. With shipments from the Eastern Shore and North Carolina lighter than had been anticipated, the market strengthened on Wednesday of last week, and most sales on Friday were in the range of $1.90-$2. On Saturday, an attempt was made to raise the price to mostly $2, but the demand at that price was very slow, and shippers found it necessary to sell for $1.90 in order to obtain any volume of business. Several shippers held quite a number of loaded cars for Monday, and a few cars were rolled to diversion points. Yesterday, the price dropped to $1.80-$1.90 and the indications are that it may be lower today. (Note: It was down to $1.75 by July 1.)

"The distribution of Eastern Shore shipments has been considerably wider this past week. Points in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana have been taking several cars daily. A few cars have been billed to points as far west as St. Paul and Duluth, and Milwaukee has been taking a few cars each day. With the peak movement from the Norfolk section past and with the season in North Carolina over, it is expected that there will be a better demand for Eastern Shore potatoes in the Middle West.

"Yields in Northampton County (Virginia) have been running lighter than at this time last year. However, the season is nearly a week late and it is probable that yields will become somewhat heavier as the harvest progresses. To date, the Eastern Shore of Virginia has shipped 3,018 cars or considerably less than the 4,651 cars by this date last season. Maryland has shipped only 5 carlots, against 32 a year ago.

"Movement from the Shore will probably be a little heavier this week, but shipments are expected to be rather light on Thursday and Saturday. Growers have been slow to harvest their potatoes, as they believe the market will improve after July 4 and that may retard the movement this week.

"A few cucumbers were expected to move from Salisbury yesterday, but shipments will probably be light until next week. Weather conditions have been favorable and the crop is in a fair condition. Yields are expected to be heavier than last summer, but the shipping season will probably be short."

4b. INCREASED CANADIAN TARIFF AFFECTS MISSISSIPPI TOMATO MOVEMENT

J. B. Owens sent the following letter from Crystal Springs on June 28:-

"Shipments of tomatoes from Mississippi during the week ending June 27 totaled 986 cars, or 19 less than the previous week's output. Both peak days for the season occurred on Tuesday, with 214 cars each, the first being June 16 and the second June 23. The movement through June 27 was approximately 1,000 cars less than last season to date and the present outlook is that the season total will be 600 to 800 cars less than in 1930. Fairly heavy shipments will go out of Mississippi on Monday and Tuesday of this week, but after that time loadings will fall off rapidly.

"The f.o.b. market during the past week was conspicuous for its strength in the face of heavy shipments, and was more or less of a surprise to the factors here. The general expectation was for a break in prices on

Tuesday and Wednesday, with an upward trend during the last part of the week and possibly a strong finishing price at the end of the deal. However, the market opened on Monday (June 22) with a slight advance over the closing prices for the previous week and continued to advance until on Thursday flats were selling at 70¢ and lugs at $1.30, cash track. At these prices the demand became much slower and prices began to decline. Most of this activity during the first part of the week was due to heavy buying for the Fourth of July trade.

"Word was received on Thursday of the increase of the Canadian duty to 6¢ a pound. This created an active demand for the smaller sizes, which are usually preferred for the Canadian trade, as Friday was the last day that shipments could be billed to Canada and escape this new duty. The demand on Saturday was very light and most shipments rolled unsold. This Canadian duty has blighted all hopes of a successful finish for this deal, as the sizes are running very small and the Canadian markets are the main outlets for this kind of stock. The situation here is more or less demoralized and, while there is considerable stock left to be shipped, the market conditions during the next week will determine the movement."

5b. TEXAS TOMATO SEASON RATHER UNSATISFACTORY

W. D. Googe sent the following letter from Jacksonville, Texas, on June 29:-

"The Texas tomato season last week was featured by a rapid rise in prices during the first four days, followed by what may be described as a collapse Friday and Saturday. Prices paid to growers rose from 1¢ a pound to as high as 3½¢ Thursday, and lugs in carloads on a cash-track basis went from 85¢-90¢ to $1.25-$1.35. But by Saturday night prices declined to their old levels, and many cars were rolling unsold. Speculators seemed to have misinterpreted the good demand during the early part of the week, and paid higher prices than market conditions would justify.

"The deal in Texas is rapidly drawing to a close. Operators anticipate three fairly heavy shipping days this week, after which shipments will drop below 100 cars a day. Hot weather and lack of rain are already affecting the quality of the stock. Probably half the cash-track buyers have left for Arkansas and Tennessee, and most of the others will be gone by Thursday. On the whole, the season has been very unprofitable to growers. Prices have been low and culling has been unusually heavy for this section. Most shippers have refused to take tomatoes that would not grade U.S. No. 1."

6b. RECENT NEWS ON GEORGIA AND CAROLINA PEACHES

R. E. Keller wrote in part as follows from Macon, Ga., in a letter of June 27:-

"Peach shippers, who are closely in touch with the North Carolina situation, tell me that the season up there is fully a week later than last year. Georgia's harvest is now about 10 days behind that of 1930, due mostly to dry weather prevailing over the southeastern peach belt. While North Carolina has had more local showers than Georgia, the same general drought is prevalent up there.

"Last year the first Hileys left Georgia on June 16, whereas this year the first cars will likely move about Wednesday, July 1. The first car of

(continued at bottom of next page)

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants. W-melons	May 6 June 1	July 11 July 11
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.* Potatoes Cucumbers Cants.	May 21 June 12 July 2 Aug. 3	June 17* Aug. 1 July 25 Aug. 15
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 1
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	R. G. Risser	Cants.	June 25	July 25
MOULTRIE, GA.**	832	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 29	July 18
HUMBOLDT, TENN.**	806	J. B. Owens	Tomatoes	July 1	July 25
CANDOR, N. C.**	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 8	July 30

The following stations closed on dates indicated:

MT. OLIVE, N. C.** P.O. Box 266	810A	R. L. Sutton	Potatoes	June 4	June 27
ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.** Chamber of Commerce	810	H. F. Willson	Potatoes	June 3	June 30
JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS**	811	W. D. Googe	Tomatoes	June 8	July 3

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
W. D. Hull in Washington
R. L. Sutton in New York

W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
A. M. McDowell in St. Louis
W. G. Thompson in Philadelphia
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

(continued from Page 425) -

Carmans is expected Monday or Tuesday, June 29 or 30. Elbertas are still very small and the initial forwardings are now expected about the middle of July. Shipments to date in Georgia amount to only 1,165 cars, compared with 1,701 a year ago, and in North Carolina 12 cars, as against 47 a year ago.

"The completion of the Early Rose harvest and the delay in maturity of Carmans and Hileys has resulted in a decline in shipmemts. Hence, for the first time this season, the f.o.b. market has brightened. Prices have advanced for the last two days, and shippers and farmers have cleaned up their holdings each day."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. ATTENTION, SUPERVISING INSPECTORS:

Shipping-point inspection is conducted under cooperative agreements with the different States which provide for inspection of products grown in the State. In some cases, licensed inspectors have certified shipments on arrival, which moved interstate. Licensed shipping-point inspectors have no authority to inspect shipments from other States. That work is straight Federal work. All licensed inspectors should be warned regarding this matter, because certificates which are issued in violation of their authority have no standing and bring criticism on the service.

2c. INSPECTION NOTES FROM OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS

A letter of June 29 from G. W. Winfrey indicates that he expects to close the inspection office at Muskogee, Okla., at the end of this week and move his headquarters to Van Buren, Ark., until peaches become heavy at Nashville, Ark. Oklahoma inspection records will be maintained at the State Market Commission office at Oklahoma City on the few scattered cars of potatoes and tomatoes which will still be inspected in that State.

Commenting on the Oklahoma inspection work, Mr. Winfrey said: "The potato deal has not been good in any respect. We have inspected about the average number of cars but considerably less than last year. This is the first season that we have had clean stock here, but the scab has been the worst ever known and very few cars graded No. 1 on that account."

He also advised that about 10 inspectors are working on cucumbers and tomatoes in southern Arkansas but the tonnage there is not heavy. Applications have been received for inspection of about 4,000 cars of peaches, some 2,500 around Nashville and the remainder widely scattered.

There are prospects of peach inspections at two or three points in Missouri and probably some work on grapes and tomatoes in that State.

3c. INSPECTION OF UTAH CANNERY TOMATOES

In a letter of June 26, L. S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, outlines the prospects for inspection work on cannery tomatoes. He indicates that a very satisfactory deal is expected and the work probably will begin actively about August 20. He adds:- "The tomato crop at this time looks good. Some additional acreage was contracted over the original estimate. However, a shortage of irrigation water will, no doubt, cut the average yield to about the expected tonnage."

4c. IMPORTANT CHANGES IN SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR GEORGIA PEACHES

In Par 5c of last week's Division Letter, the minimum size requirements were given for U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 peaches in Georgia, as provided under the Georgia Peach and Apple Standardization Act.

A telegram of July 2 from O. G. Strauss advises that the Commissioner of Agriculture has reduced the size requirements 1/8 inch on all varieties, and it is also provided that the new minimum sizes shall apply to U.S. No. 2 fruit as well as to U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1, as follows:-

Carmans	1 3/4 inches	Elbertas	1 7/8 inches
Hileys	1 5/8 inches	Hales	1 7/8 inches
Georgia Belles	1 3/4 inches		

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	July 11
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	July 11
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, P.O. Box 166, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	July 15
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Van Buren, Ark.	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	Aug. 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	July 20
VIRGINIA:	Robert Bier, Cape Charles, Va.	Potatoes	June 8	July 10
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agri., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Tomatoes	July 1	July 25
KANSAS:	V. V. Westgate, c/o State Board of Agr., Topeka, Kans.	Potatoes	July 6	Aug. 15

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-
Missouri potatoes.....F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office.
Iowa onions.....R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office.
Kentucky products.....T. C. Curry, Louisville office.
Oklahoma products.....Okla. Market Commission, Oklahoma City.

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

5c. ADDITIONS FOR LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

Marsh, A. E., Company	Yakima, Wash.	$4.00
Morris, John, Jr.	Harlingen, Texas	$4.00

OFFICE NOTES:

J. W. Park is expected back next Monday from his eastern trip on which he made a study of fruit and produce auctions. J. G. Cross returned on Tuesday from his recent trip in the interest of dairy reports. On Wednesday, he made a brief trip to Baltimore in the interest of reports from transportation lines. Wendell Calhoun returned to his desk on Thursday morning, after having visited market-news offices in the East.

L. C. Carey, in charge of the Standard Container Project, expects to leave Washington early next week for a month's trip on which he will make a survey of Climax baskets and one-quart containers. He will also visit package factories in the interest of the enforcement of the work on splint baskets and other containers. He plans to cover western New York, northern Ohio, western Michigan and Wisconsin on this trip. Stops will be made at 60 or more towns. He hopes to return from this trip about August 5.

T. C. J. Baker left on Wednesday for a brief trip to Burlington, Iowa; Omaha, Nebr., and Cobden, Ill., to investigate complaints of alleged violations of the Standard Container Acts. He probably will return about the middle of next week, and will then proceed to New York, Philadelphia, Vineland, N.J., Laurel, Del., Salisbury, Md., Norfolk, Va., and Mt. Olive, N.C., to confer with package manufacturers and others in the interest of the enforcement of the Standard Container Acts.

B. C. Boree will be on vacation all of next week in Saint Marys County, Maryland. W. L. Evans, of the Regulatory Branch in Washington, has gone on vacation at Lee Center, N.Y., and J. W. Strowbridge, of the Standardization and Research Project, has gone to Dundee, N.Y., on annual leave.

R. L. Sutton closed the Mt. Olive field station last Saturday and came to the Washington office for a few days. He has now proceeded to New York City, where he will substitute during the next month, while S. W. Russell and E. R. Biddle take their annual leave.

H. F. Willson closed the market-news office at Elizabeth City, N.C., on Tuesday and will go to Candor, N.C., where he will begin to issue reports on peaches about next Wednesday.

W. D. Googe will return to his headquarters at Fort Worth for a few weeks, after closing the Jacksonville, Texas, field station this Friday.

B. E. Surry will leave Denver at the end of this week, as Bryce Morris expects to be back from his vacation today. Mr. Surry will proceed to the Portland, Oregon, office of the Market News Service, where he will assist J. D. Hamilton during the next six months. Mr. Hamilton will frequently be away from Portland on checking-trips in connection with the market reports on northwestern apples, as issued from the Spokane office.

A rush of inspection work in Boston this week necessitated the assistance of H. L. Geer, of the Providence office, and G. R. Blount, of the Philadelphia office.

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OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

W. Gary Thompson has gone from Chicago to Philadelphia, where he will substitute in the market-news office during the successive absences of J. G. Scott and LT. R. Butts on annual leave during the next six weeks.

The Jacksonville, Fla., office of the Inspection Service will be closed during July and August. R. H. vonGlahn, local inspector, will assist with the work in New York City during this period.

It is understood that practically all of the shipping-point inspections on Norfolk potatoes will be completed this week, and H. H. Henderson, who has been supervising this work, will resume his regular duties at the Norfolk office.

R. C. Lindstrom has gone from Des Moines to the Pleasant Valley district of Iowa to inaugurate the shipping-point work on onions. He expects to return to Des Moines office about July 15, and reports on Iowa onion inspections can be had directly from that office.

D. C. Beeler went from Chicago to Des Moines to substitute there for a few days during Mr. Lindstrom's absence. The Des Moines office will be closed from about July 6 to 15, as Mr. Beeler will proceed to Kansas City at the end of this week and substitute a few days at that office before he goes to Omaha, where he will be stationed during the remainder of July and August.

F. M. Lyle will spend the first few days of next week in the Orrick section of Missouri, getting the shipping-point work started on potatoes. He plans to return to his Kansas City headquarters about the middle of the week, and reports on Missouri potato inspections can be had from Kansas City office.

V. V. Westgate, of the Omaha office, will proceed to Topeka, Kansas, by July 8, where he will supervise the shipping-point inspection work on Kaw Valley potatoes. D. C. Beeler expects to reach Omaha about July 8 and will substitute in that office during the six weeks of Mr. Westgate's absence.

B. H. Rowell, of the Chicago staff, has been substituting during the past week or more for J. E. Dickerson, at Indianapolis inspection office.

F. S. Kinsey will complete his supervision of shipping-point inspections in Mississippi today and will proceed to the New Orleans office, where he will substitute for J. W. Coleman, while the latter is on leave during the next two weeks. From July 20 to early August, Mr. Kinsey will be on vacation at Los Angeles and other points in the West.

W. E. Phillips, of the Toledo inspection office, was obliged to return to Chicago again this week, to help with the rush of inspections in that city.

W. A. Hilgeson, of the Chicago staff, is spending some time in St. Louis in connection with the inspection work.

G. W. Winfrey will move today from Muskogee, Okla., to Van Buren, Ark., as the potato inspection work in Oklahoma is about finished. Work on Arkansas peaches will soon become heavy.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
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1a. RECENT NEWS REGARDING PORTO RICAN INSPECTION WORK

A. S. Mason, in a letter of July 1 from San Juan, advised that for the period ending June 30, 1931, a total of 192,314 packages of grapefruit, orange pineapples and peppers was inspected in Porto Rico. This includes three month work, beginning about April 1. The months of July and August are expected to average at least 125,000 packages, and September, October and November should average about 100,000 packages each month. Continuing, Mr. Mason wrote:-

"It will interest you to know that all but five packing houses, which in a year's time pack between 125,000 and 150,000 boxes, are now using Government inspection on all shipments packed to meet requirements of the U.S. No.2 or higher grades. This week, we are starting inspection on the fruit of Knight & Roren, who are probably the largest shippers of grapefruit on the Island. Their shipments in a year probably run to more than 150,000 boxes. Up until this time, they have had most of this fruit inspected in New York for sale in England, but have now transferred their inspections to Porto Rico."

2a. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

Two additional summaries of recent shipping seasons were issued by the Washington office this week:

"Marketing Western New York Peaches, 1930 Season," by R. L. Sutton and A. L. Thomas; and "Marketing Western New York Pears, 1930 Season," by the same authors.

A four-paged Preliminary Review of the North Carolina 1931 Potato Season was issued by H. F. Willson on July 1, before he left Elizabeth City.

3a. NATIONAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXCHANGE

A few weeks ago, the board of directors of the newly-formed National Fruit and Vegetable Exchange, Inc., held a series of meetings at the offices of the Federal Farm Board in Washington. This Exchange was organized by co-operative commodity marketing associations throughout the country, to centralize the national merchandising of fruits and vegetables controlled by these cooperatives. The board of directors announced that ample support had been pledged, in the way of tonnage, to warrant proceeding promptly with the opening of an office, which will be located temporarily in Chicago. The principal objective of the new National Fruit and Vegetable Exchange, Inc., is to form a national marketing outlet for grower-owned marketing associations handling fresh fruits and vegetables. The member associations will also be given assistance in standardizing, cultural and packaging procedure. (Abstract from the "Daily Digest" of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington.)

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. ARIZONA CANTALOUPE SEASON UNUSUALLY EARLY

R. G. Risser wrote as follows from Phoenix, Arizona, on June 28:-

"The cantaloupe season of 1931 in the Salt River Valley of Arizona has been one of extraordinary earliness. Weather conditions were conducive to rapid development of the plants and early maturity of shipping stock. The daily movement had gone over the 200-car mark on June 24, probably breaking all records for shipments on that date and being practically a week ahead of the abnormally early season of 1930. Intense heat has further accelerated maturity and has probably shortened the producing life of the vines. Maximum temperatures have soared to 108° and 110°, which has had an unfavorable effect upon the condition of the remaining crop. Under the circumstances, shippers are predicting an early finish and declare that most of the crop will be off by the Fourth of July.

"Marketing conditions have been very unfavorable. The heavy movement of cantaloupes and miscellaneous melons from Imperial Valley has made serious competition. The occurrence of July 4 on a week end has also had a bad effect, and general industrial conditions have not encouraged buying. Most of the loadings have been rolled to eastern markets unsold, the few sales at shipping points being around 85¢ per standard crate.

"Shippers are having a very unprofitable season, following on the heels of a number of other unprofitable projects in other shipping districts. Aggregate losses of those engaged in the handling of perishables in the Southwest during the past year and a half have been stupendous, and are being further increased by the Arizona cantaloupe deal."

2b. EASTERN SHORE POTATO MOVEMENT LIGHTER THAN EXPECTED

In a letter of July 7 from Pocomoke City, Md., V. H. Nicholson sent the following report on Eastern Shore conditions:-

"The general feeling among shippers and other factors is that the Eastern Shore potato shipments will be much lighter than at first indicated. Yields have been running under those of a year ago, and, despite the frequent rains, most of the stock is of only medium size. One man made the statement that the Eastern Shore of Virginia had shipped one-third of its crop by the end of last week. This would indicate a crop of around 16,000 cars and several others have estimated the production close to that figure. While these estimates may be a little low, present conditions indicate that shipments will not exceed those of last season.

"Distribution has been very good. The cities in the Middle Atlantic and New England States have been taking a large percentage of the shipments, but there has been a moderate movement to points in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. Several cars have been billed to points in Iowa and Minnesota. The movement to Canada, however, has been extremely light.

"If the weather continues hot, with frequent rains, it is probable that shipments of cucumbers will be quite heavy during the next 10 days or two weeks. Shipments this season probably will be heavier than those of a year ago."

3b. AVOID USE OF SUCH WORDS AS "TOMORROW" AND "YESTERDAY"

In f.o.b. and similar wires, such words as "tomorrow" or "yesterday" should never be used. The f.o.b. reports are not published until the day following the period which they cover, and such terms then become indefinite Instead, the day of the week should always be specified, such as "Friday's loadings," etc.

4b. REVISED "WA" PAGE OF CODE

With this D.L., there is being mailed a revision of the "WA" (Miscellaneous) page of the code, to become effective on July 17. Any office not receiving the necessary copies should notify Washington. Please note that this page replaces both the "WA" and "WI" pages of the present code.

5b. TENNESSEE TOMATO MOVEMENT PAST ITS PEAK

In a letter of July 6 from Humboldt, J. B. Owens sent the following information on tomatoes:-

"Quality of the first Tennessee tomatoes was very ordinary. Weather conditions during the early growing season caused the first cluster tomatoes to be rather large and rough, with a heavy percentage of culls, and intense heat at the beginning of the harvesting season was very detrimental to the carrying quality. Recent rains over the district, followed by cool weather, have done much to improve these conditions, and it seems that the present shipments should arrive in a much better condition. Local labor is used almost exclusively in packing Tennessee tomatoes, and this is not very conducive to uniformity in grading and attractiveness in pack.

"There is very much difference of opinion as to how long the season will last. Some shippers are already venturing to say that the half-way mark will be reached with today's movement. Whether this be true or not, all indications point to a short crop and a short season."

6b. TEMPERATURES OF 106 TO 118 IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

In a letter of July 6 from Brawley, Calif., the following information was included by A. E. Prugh:-

"The cantaloupe season ended earlier than expected. From 276 cars of straight cantaloupes on June 25, movement dropped sharply to 42 on the 30th and 12 on July 4. The Perfectos came on fast and the vines did not hold up very long. With the low prices prevailing at the time,- 80¢-85¢ cash f.o.b., with no premium for jumbo 45's on part of the sales,- and Arizona shipping heavily, there was not much incentive for Imperial Valley shippers to continue. On July 6, only two or three shippers were packing, and they expect to stop in two or three days.

"To July 5 inclusive, the Valley had moved 12,901 cantaloupes, 2,519 Honey Dews, 1542 mixed melons, 1,267 Honey Balls, 23 Persians and 20 Casabas, a total of 18,272 cars. The Pacific Fruit Express representatives estimate around 22,000 cars total, which would be nearly 4,000 more. The season is expected to end earlier than last year, probably around August 1.

"The weather has been extremely hot lately. Commencing with July 1, maximum temperatures to the 6th have been as follows:- 106, 118, 112, 108, 111 and 107. The vines may not hold up, if such temperatures continue."

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.*	May 21	June 17*
			Potatoes	June 12	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 2	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 1
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	R. G. Risser	Cants.	June 25	July 18
MOULTRIE, GA.** Chamber of Commerce	832	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 29	July 18
HUMBOLDT, TENN.**	806	J. B. Owens	Tomatoes	July 1	July 1[illegible]
CANDOR, N. C.**	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 20	Aug. 12
The following station closes on date indicated:					
BRAWLEY, CALIF.** Planters Hotel Bldg.	808	A. E. Prugh	Cants.	May 6	July 11
			W-Melons	June 1	July 11

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. L. Sutton in New York
A. E. Prugh at Brawley, Calif.
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
A. M. McDowell in St. Louis
W. G. Thompson in Philadelphia
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.
H. F. Willson at Candor, N. C.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

7b. ARIZONA CANTALOUPES ENCOUNTER A BAD MARKET

A second letter was received from R. G. Risser, at Phoenix, under date of July 5:-

"A serious situation has developed in the marketing of Arizona cantaloupes. The heavy shipments from Salt River Valley this season started while the heavy movement or second peak of Imperial Valley was under way. On the morning of July 3, about 690 cars were reported as the combined track holdings of the 12 leading cities. Monday morning (July 6) is expected to show one of the heaviest track accumulations of cantaloupes on record, possibly surpassing the high points of all previous seasons. (957 cars were reported on track that day, July 6.- Editor's note)

"In anticipation of this situation, some of the Arizona shippers agreed to close down on shipments Saturday and Sunday. The favorable effect of this action, however, will be somewhat offset by the continued shipments of Honey Balls and Honey Dews from the Imperial Valley and by the active starting of cantaloupe movement from the Turlock district and nearby points."

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
LOUISIANA:	H. S. Moles, University Station, Baton Rouge, La.	Vegetables	Nov. 5	Aug. 1
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	Aug. 1
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, P.O. Box 166, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	July 18
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Van Buren, Ark.	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	Aug. 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	July 20
VIRGINIA:	Robert Bier, Cape Charles, Va.	Potatoes	June 8	July 18
ARIZONA:	E. L. Ruch, 615 Security Bldg. Phoenix, Ariz.	Cants. Grapes	June 15 June 25	July 18 Aug. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Tomatoes	July 1	July 25
KANSAS:	V. V. Westgate, c/o State Board of Agr., Topeka, Kans.	Potatoes	July 6	Aug. 15

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-
Missouri potatoes ..... F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office
Iowa onions ..... R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Kentucky products..... T. C. Curry, Louisville office
Oklahoma products ..... Okla. Market Commission, Oklahoma City
Massachusetts onions.....O. A. McNiff, Springfield, Mass., office.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. AN INTERESTING REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN IDAHO

L. G. Schultz wrote as follows from Boise in a letter of July 1:-

"I have just returned from the northern part of the State and regret to report that the cherry harvest in that section was very unsatisfactory. After writing you on June 18, they had several heavy rains which caused serious damage and a loss of approximately 50% of the crop. The returns in that section were consequently far from satisfactory, except in some instances where the fruit was not so badly damaged. The situation in southern Idaho, however, - in the Emmett and Payette districts, - is entirely different and they have enjoyed a very profitable season, some growers averaging 12¢ per pound net for Bings and Lamberts, although I believe this is above the usual price received. The quality in these sections was excellent, as they has no rain, and the total movement will amount to around 60 cars.

"We have shipped our first car of Cobblers potatoes, and immediately after the 4th of July the movement will begin quite generally, the volume depending entirely upon the price. The dealers are offering $1 per 100 pounds at the present time, and many feel that the price will even be lower than this as soon as the deal gets under way. If prices can be maintained at $1, there will be a heavy movement this month.

"The fresh pea shipments have stopped entirely, due to the price declining to a point that would not justify picking. Many growers left half of their crop in the fields, and the total movement was only about half of what was expected. There will be some later stock to be moved this fall, and it is hoped that conditions will improve by that time sufficiently at least to justify the shipment of these peas."

2c. A REAL KENTUCKY STORM

In a letter of June 30 from Louisville, Ky., T. C. Curry told about the first severe storm he had experienced in that city:-

"I have heard much about the storms in Louisville and experienced my first one yesterday afternoon. About 1:30 P.M. and almost out of a clear sky, 200 houses were unroofed; 500 or more large trees over the city were uprooted; cars, lights and over 1,500 telephones were put out of commission. A wind of 65 miles an hour was accompanied by heavy rain. I consider myself almost ranking a 'Colonel' now.

"Due to excessive heat and drought the past few weeks, the potato movement from this section will be somewhat delayed and will not start in a general way until about July 13. It is possible that a few cars will move during the week of July 6; this, of course, depends on the weather. Should the severe hot spell continue, shippers say they won't attempt any loadings. Vines are dying now and, although this immediate section had a heavy rain and severe windstorm yesterday afternoon, fear is felt that the vines are too far gone to stage a comeback.

"The potato crop will be cut possibly 20%, and it appears that stock will run almost one-third No. 2's. But, after taking all this into consideration, the crop should be larger and of much better quality than last season.

"Onion movement is on in a small way and the quality is better than for several years, although none are making U.S. No. 1 grade, due principally to bottle-necks and seed-stems. The stock is of good size, most cars running 80%, or better, over 2 inches in diameter; also generally clean and bright."

3c. IMPORTANT CHANGE IN PROJECT NUMBER (Note carefully)

Project 2101, "Enforcement of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act," was superseded on July 1 by Project 1801. Letters of authorization drawn for the last fiscal year under Project 2101 have been drawn under Project 1801 for the present fiscal year. In submitting expense accounts, items formerly charged to 2101 should now be charged to 1801, and in transmitting on schedule of collectionschecks received in payment for expenses in connection with inspections, the appropriation number 32303.18 should be shown instead of 31314.

It will greatly assist the accounting offices, if inspectors, in preparing expense accounts, will indicate in the body of the account the different items which make up the total shown as chargeable to 1801 on the face of the voucher. The number 1801 in parenthesis after each item chargeable to this project, or an asterisk and a note indicating that certain items are chargeable to 1801, are suggested, but any other means of segregating the 1801 items will be satisfactory.

4c. FINAL REPORT ON FLORIDA SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS

A recent report from O. G. Strauss indicates that 4 cars of oranges and 1 car each of grapefruit and mixed citrus were inspected at Florida shipping points during the second half of June. There were no vegetable inspections for that period.

Total inspections for the entire season through June 30 were:-

Beans	2	Peppers	61	Grapefruit	541
Beets	1	Potatoes	1150	Oranges	775
Cabbage	28	Peanuts	1	Tangerines	40
Carrots	8	Strawberries	179	Mixed citrus	347
Celery	4093	Tomatoes	215	Total:	1703
Cucumbers	78	Mixed vegs	35		
Lettuce	22	Total:	5873	Grand TOTAL:	7576

Comparative figures for other seasons are given as follows:

Total Florida Inspections through June 30:

Season 1922-23	162	Season 1927-28	6560
1923-24	8370	1928-29	7644
1924-25	10660	1929-30	6375
1925-26	3857	1930-31	7576
1926-27	9980		

MALAGA GRAPES are now starting to move from Imperial Valley of California. The Thompson Seedless crop in that district has been moved.

5c. WIRE ORIGINAL APPLICANT OR SHIPPER REGARDING REVERSALS

The following instructions are given in Par. 101, Part I, of the Inspection Handbook:-

"The office making the reinspection will be expected to send out the usual notices of appeal inspection to the shipping-point supervisor and to the original applicant. The Washington office will take up with the shipping-point inspector, through his supervisor, the reasons for the reversal and will direct the shipping-point supervisor to take whatever action seems advisable to correct any errors which have been shown by the appeal inspection."

It is the duty of the inspection office, reversing a shipping-point certificate as to grade, to inform the original applicant, when known. When the original applicant is not known, the name of the shipper should be ascertained and a wire sent to him regarding the reversal. The name of the shipper can usually be obtained from the receiver or the applicant for inspection.

6c. WRONG USE OF "UNCLASSIFIED" DESIGNATION ON CERTIFICATE

An inspector recently reported a car of tomatoes as showing such heavy decay that it was impossible to determine accurately the percentage of grade defects, and he used the term "Unclassified" after "Grade" on the certificate. Probably the inspector intended to convey the idea that the grade of the lot was undetermined, but the buyer of the car interpreted the certificate to mean a grade of tomatoes lower than U.S. No. 2. In this case, nothing should have been said after "Grade" because no determination of grade was made. When it is impossible to determine grade on account of heavy decay, the certificate should be restricted and "Grade" should be blocked out.

7c. SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS ONIONS

A cooperative agreement has been made with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, whereby Federal-State inspection of onions will be conducted this season at shipping points in the Connecticut Valley. O.A.McNiff, who has just been placed in charge of the inspection office at Springfield, will handle the supervision of this new work and reports on cars of Massachusetts onions can be had directly from Mr. McNiff, at Springfield, Mass. It is expected that at least 500 or 600 cars will be inspected.

8c. RADIO TALKS ON INSPECTION WORK FOR THE NAVY

On Friday, June 26, from Station KGO, a radio talk was given by C. J. Hansen, of the San Francisco office, regarding "Fruits and Vegetables for the Navy." This is a very interesting and instructive talk, and copies probably can be obtained by any who desire them, directly from San Francisco, as the Radio Service mimeographs copies of all of Mr. Hansen's weekly talks.

J. B. Wright, of the San Pedro office, also prepared a radio talk recently on "Inspecting Food Supplies for the U.S. Battle Fleet at San Pedro, California." This, too, is an excellent address, which was broadcast from San Francisco.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

-- SEE Par. 9c at bottom of Page 439. --

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BUYING CANNING CROPS ON GRADE

H. S. Duncan, Inspector in Charge at the Rochester office of the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets, wrote the following report:-

"In the fall of 1928, inspection was requested by the Snider Packing Cooperation on tomatoes, to be carried on at their plant at Irving, N. Y. This request was granted. During that season we inspected approximately 3½ million pounds of tomatoes. During the first week of the inspection, the culls averaged about 7%, but the total percentage of culls at the end of the season averaged only 4%. Results at the end of the season showed that 47% of the crop, at that plant, had greaded U.S. No. 1, 49% U.S. No. 2 and 4% culls.

"At the end of the 1929 season, it was found that the quality had improved and the percentages ran: 52% U.S. No. 1, 46% U.S. No. 2, and 2% culls. The 1930 season showed a still larger percentage of No. 1 grade tomatoes, with about the same percentage of culls as for the preceding season. The final figures for 1930 showed that 61% had graded U.S. No. 1, 37% U.S. No. 2, and 2% culls.

"In 1928 only one factory was buying on a graded basis. In 1929 four factories bought on a graded basis, and in 1930 six factories and eleven receiving stations were receiving tomatoes on the graded basis. For the 1931 season, we have requests from 12 factories, embracing approximately 25 receiving stations. During the 1929 season we inspected 7,024,881 pounds of tomatoes, and during the 1930 season 26,148,000 pounds.

"During the 1929 season we carried on an experimental inspection service on spinach, in order to obtain some figures that would eventually enable us to set up grades on this product that would be fair, both to producers and canners. As a result of this experimental work, the present U.S. grades for cannery spinach were promulgated by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and during the past season have been in use by two canning companies in New York State.

"We started to inspect cherries for maggot injury two years ago in Wayne County. Last year we covered virtually the whole State, and at the same time that we were inspecting for maggot injury we were compiling figures to be used by W. E. Lewis, of the United States Department of Agriculture, in setting up grades. We succeeded in obtaining figures on 4,570 loads."

Since this statement was written, our Bureau has prepared and issued U. S. Standards for Red Sour Cherries for Manufacture, these grades being dated April 22, 1931. It is understood that, for the present season, about 27 canneries in New York have drawn up contracts and have requested inspection on the basis of these grades, so that they will be given a thorough test this year. Several canneries in Ohio and Pennsylvania also are using these grades.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization.

9c. CHANGES FOR LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following name should be added to the list of Past-Due Accounts:

Malloy Buscher Company,	St. Louis, Mo.	$1.00

The following should be taken off the list of Past-Due Accounts:

John Morris, Jr.	Harlingen, Texas	$4.00

OFFICE NOTES:-

With regret, announcement is made of the resignation of W. J. Kocken, of the New York City inspection staff, effective July 8. Mr. Kocken was appointed to the service in January, 1929, and has been connected during most of these 2½ years with the Chicago and New York offices of the Inspection Service, where he has done good work. It is understood that he plans to return to the vicinity of Spokane, Wash.

Robert G. Hill returned to duty in Mr. Pailthorp's project on Monday of this week, after two weeks' absence because of serious sinus trouble. Mrs. M. M. Aylor, head clerk of the Regulatory Branch, was absent for more than three weeks because of illness and did not return to duty until yesterday. In her absence, Mrs. Mills endeavored to carry on the greater part of Mrs. Aylor's work.

E. E. Conklin, Jr., Regional Supervisor in the Chicago office of the Inspection Service, has spent this week and probably will have to spend next week at his former home in Syracuse, N.Y., because of the serious illness of his father.

R. L. Spangler, of the Standardization and Research Project, left Washington on Wednesday for Columbus, Ohio, where he will confer with M. W. Baker and later with canners and growers in Ohio regarding the use of the new Federal grades for red sour cherries for manufacture. He will then proceed to Rochester and other points in New York, as well as to Harrisburg and points in Pennsylvania, for the same purpose, probably returning to Washington about July 18. At Rochester he will confer with H. S. Duncan and at Harrisburg with D. M. Jones.

The DALLAS office of the Inspection Service will be closed from now until about September 15. A. H. Polster, in charge, will report early next week for relief duty in Denver. He will substitute for N. D. Sanborn while the latter is on annual leave and during the period in which he will supervise shipping-point inspections in the State of Colorado, particularly in the Arkansas Valley. M. C. Gregory, of the Fort Worth office, will handle Dallas inspections during Mr. Polster's absence.

R. C. Hastings, of the State Seed Commissioner's Office, at Fargo, North Dakota, has been given an appointment as Agent with this Bureau. Mr. Hastings was a member of the recent inspectors' training-class in Chicago.

Bolling Hall and O. A. McNiff have exchanged places in the Inspection Service. Mr. McNiff has been transferred from New York City to take permanent charge of the office at Springfield, Mass., effective today. Mr. Hall will at once become a member of the New York City inspection staff. Please change these two names properly on all lists of inspectors.

W. C. Hackleman, Regional Supervisor at the New York office, will spend a few days next week at shipping points in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts, helping O. A. McNiff to get the inspection work started on this year's onion crop, beginning July 13. Mr. McNiff will supervise this work during the shipping season.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):- Since page 435 was printed, we have learned that G. W. Winfrey has moved to Nashville, Ark., on peaches.

Lateness of the peach movement from North Carolina has made it necessary to postpone the opening date for the Candor field station until July 20, but H. F. Willson, who will be in charge of that office, can now be reached at Candor, N. C.

It is expected that A. E. Prugh will close the Brawley, Calif., service on cantaloupes this Saturday (so far as the Federal market reports are concerned). After issuing a review of the season, he will go to Los Angeles and remain there until time to open the Fresno grape office.

Word has been received of the birth of a 9½-pound son to Mr. and Mrs. G. Ray Warren. The happy event occurred at Caribou, Maine (Mrs. Warren's home) on July 1, and the boy has been named Kenneth Hooten Warren. After having assisted with work in New York City for the past week or more, Mr. Warren has now gone on annual leave at Caribou. Congratulations on the young son are extended to him and Mrs. Warren.

J. B. Wright, in charge of inspections for the Navy at San Pedro, Calif., is taking his annual leave a few days at a time. The first five days of July were spent at Camp Nelson, in the Sequoia National Park. Mr. Wright advises that the inspection work at San Pedro will become heavy again after July 6, as three battleships are returning there for the summer. At present, there are two plane-carriers, the base-force flagship, a repair ship and other smaller craft in the harbor at San Pedro. Prices of supplies for the Navy have been very low recently.

It is understood that C. J. Hansen, of the San Francisco office, is on leave during the first week or 10 days of July. O. W. Holmes, of that office, is handling the work in Mr. Hansen's absence.

T. C. Curry, of the Louisville office, will supervise shipping-point inspections of potatoes and other products in the vicinity of Louisville. The reports on these certificates can be had directly from Mr. Curry.

L. C. Tate has advised that his residence address in Minneapolis is 2507 Nicollet Avenue; no telephone has as yet been installed. Please add Mr. Tate's name and address to the Market Station Address List and to the Inspectors' Address List, under Minneapolis. Mr. Tate will assist with inspection work in that market when necessary.

Please NOTE that the headquarters of W. L. Close, Supervisor of inspection work in Oregon, have been changed from Portland to the Agricultural Bldg., Salem, Oregon. His office phone number at Salem is 4114. Make this change on the last page of the Inspectors' Address List, dated April 20, 1931.

J. J. Gardner has advised us that his residence phone number in Pittsburgh is changed from Lafayette 5341-R to Hemlock 9780. Please note this change on all copies of the Inspectors' Address List.

It is probable that the mimeographing and mailing of this D.L. will be somewhat delayed, because most of the mimeograph machines are busy on the July crop reports, this being crop-report day in Washington.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 29 July 17, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. INFORMATION NEEDED REGARDING AUCTION COMPANIES

Reply "Attention of J.W. Park"

Department Bulletin No. 1362, "American Fruit and Produce Auctions," is being revised. If city auctions are in operation in any markets other than those listed below, please furnish a brief report on the history and extent of the operations of the auction company and the name and address of the manager, so that we may communicate directly for further statistical and general information. Cities in which we know a auction companies are in operation and from which we will get information by personal visit or by correspondence are:

Baltimore	Chicago	Detroit	New Orleans	Pittsburgh
Boston	Cleveland	Los Angeles	New York	St. Louis
Buffalo	Cincinnati	Minneapolis	Philadelphia	St. Paul

Information on shipping-point auctions, either on a carload basis or in smaller units, is also desired. Field men who have been on assignments in the last year, where shipping-point auctions have been in operation, are requested to report briefly on the methods, scope and success of such operations and to advise as to the name and address of the manager, so that we can communicate directly for further details, if needed.

Field men, who have been in position to observe the functioning of the f.o.b. wire sales under the teletype system, should report briefly on their observations.

All replies should be marked for attention of J. W. Park, in the Washington office. Please give this matter your early attention.

2a. CONFERENCE ON GRADES FOR BARRELED APPLES

Approximately 35 men from many States are meeting in the Conference Room in the Bieber Building, Washington, today, to discuss proposed changes in the United States Grades for Apples.

Each of the eastern barreled apple States, that are packing their apples on the basis of the U.S. grades, was invited to send three representatives to this conference. In addition, W. C. Hackleman came from the New York office of the Inspection Service and J. J. Gardner from the Pittsburgh office. The local representatives of the Standardization Project and the Inspection Project are taking an active part in the discussions, which are being led by R. R. Pailthorp.

3a. "STANDARD GOVERNMENT TRAVEL REGULATIONS," as amended effective July 1, 1931, were mailed recently to all field men who travel. If anybody, who needs these Regulations, was overlooked, he should request a copy at once.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. RAINS RELIEVE SITUATION IN THE GEORGIA PEACH DISTRICTS

R. E. Keller sent the following report from Macon, Ga., on July 11:-

"The long-continued drought, that delayed the Georgia peach movement, has finally been broken. During the latter part of this week, practically every peach section in the State has had good soaking rains. Some of the Hileys may be a trifle small, but the bulk of this variety and all the other remaining varieties will now attain good marketable size. Dry weather delayed maturity and, as a result, the peach movement this year is one of the most retarded seasons on record. However, now that the drought has been broken, the harvesting will be speeded-up. The major portion of the Hiley crop is expected to move during the next week and this variety will be completed in the following week. The first car of Elbertas is now anticipated the 18th of July, the start of the general harvest the following week of July 19 to 25, and the completion of deal about August 10.

"So far this season, the quality of the Georgia peaches has been above average and the fruit has had exceptionally high color. If, however, the remainder of the season should turn rainy, some trouble is expected from Brown Rot.

"The movement to date totals only 2,137 cars, as against 3,385 a year ago. The demand has been quite active and most dealers have sold out every night since the Hileys started moving."

2b. CROP NOTES FROM COLORADO

Bryce Morris, in a letter of July 11 from Denver, gave the following information regarding Colorado crops:-

"The past week has been cooler, except for Friday and Saturday, with very little rain throughout the intermountain region. Colorado potatoes from the Western Slope have begun to move freely, with shipments ranging from 8 to 11 cars daily. These are Cobblers from the Fruita section, west of Grand Junction. On the Denver market these Cobblers have ranged $2.15-$2.25 per cwt. The quality has been fair to good. Green peas advanced sharply, and were practically double the price prevailing 10 days ago. Farmers received from 5¢ to 6¢ a pound today. The cherry crop is moving now, with a light production reported from Longmont and Loveland on account of a late frost. Very few of these northern Colorado cherries will reach the Denver market this season.

"Latest advices from the lettuce sections indicate that green peas and lettuce will begin moving from La Jara about July 25 and from Del Norte July 25 to 27, while Granby section on the Western Slope will not get under way until August 5 to 10. Colorado apricots are moving freely now, with 15-pound boxes selling on the Denver market at 75¢-90¢."

3b. JULY CROP REPORTS

The July crop forecasts, released last Friday, indicate a crop of 396,000,000 bushels of potatoes, compared with 343,000,000 last season. The sweet potato crop may be 74,100,000 bushels, or almost one-fifth more than in 1930. Apples may reach the high total of 211,000,000 bushels; peaches may break records at 78,000,000, but pears will be only 24,400,000 bushels.

4b. UNUSUAL GROWING CONDITIONS FOR KAW VALLEY POTATOES

On July 10, R. E. Corbin wrote as follows in a letter from Kansas City:-

"Yesterday afternoon I made a little drive down the east end of the Kaw Valley to interview some of the growers and shippers and look at the potato fields. I am convinced that the reports I had been hearing of a very great reduction in this year's crop are true. I was in one sand land field and dug perhaps a dozen hills in which the potatoes ranged from the size of marbles to about 1¼ inches in diameter, - stock that will be unfit for market. These potatoes were badly misshapen, owing to a peculiar second growth which has come since the rain. This second growth has the appearance of a little horn on the blossom end. In other fields I visited on black land, the potatoes were larger and the percentage of second growth was not so great, but practically every hill showed some of it. Since the rains, the vines have become green and the fields look very well, but the stock as described above is generally of poor quality. I visited one station where a car was being loaded, which would make U.S. 1 grade. These particular potatoes came from an upland field. One grower told me that he had dug seven acres to load one car. From the same seven acres last year he loaded three cars and in 1928 four cars. Present estimates are for a seasonal shipment from the Kaw Valley of 2,500 cars, more or less.

"Recurring to the description of some of the potatoes, there are conditions in Kansas which old-timers say they have never seen before. In addition to the peculiar second growth, already described, some of the stock was matured during the dry hot weather in June and seemed to have sufficient rest period to make seed of it. Since the rains, these potatoes are sending out sprouts. One grower told me that he was going to experiment with a field, which was hardly worth digging, by just leaving the potatoes in the ground and letting them grow a second voluntary crop to be harvested sometime next fall. Growers generally are pretty well discouraged with the outlook, realizing that they will have a very light crop of generally ordinary quality potatoes."

5b. TENNESSEE TOMATO SEASON FINISHED

The following letter of July 14 came from J. B. Owens at Humboldt, Tenn.:-

"Cool weather during the past week did much toward improving the carrying-quality of Tennessee tomatoes, and complaints of poor condition on arrival have been less frequent than at any time during the season. Many cars have gone out initially-iced under standard ventilation and this, along with the cool weather, has done a great deal toward reducing the number of rejections.

"The season here will be practically finished by the end of the week. All indications are that shipments will be about 25% less than last season. The quality of the top fruit is only fair and sizes, as customary, are running very small. Most of the shipments now going out range from 50% to 75% six by seven's. The f.o.b. market is holding firmly, after the advances of last week and, in spite of the heavy percentage of small sizes, the market bids fair to continue active throughout the remainder of the season."

6b. RAINS IMPROVE WATERMELON PROSPECTS IN GEORGIA

R. M. Peterson wrote as follows from Moultrie, Ga., in a letter of July 14:-

"Watermelon yields are always uncertain, reacting to temperature and moisture-changes to a greater degree and more quickly than most crops. The early estimates indicated a very light yield in Georgia, due to a prolonged dry season. Local showers, early in July, revived many fields in scattered localities, but most sections gave light yields of small melons. Loadings in South Georgia decreased rapidly last week, and prospects were not at all good in the Macon section. General rains over the week-end, however, changed the outlook considerably. The Macon section now promises a fair to good crop, and South Georgia will produce a second crop in fields that were not too far gone to be benefited by the late rains.

"The Vienna section, half way between Moultrie and Macon, is loading quite freely now, with Dixie Belles and Thurmond Grays predominating. Statesboro, Ga., near Estill, S.C., has been shipping melons for over a week and is probably at its peak. The Macon section is loading a few scattered cars and will be shipping quite freely next week. The Georgia shipments were expected to increase this week and average around 500 cars daily. Yesterday's (Monday's) movement of less than 200 cars was a great surprise, as three times that number were expected by many shippers.

"Many of the melons loaded in South Georgia last week showed effects of sunburn in varying degrees, causing considerable complaint from the terminal markets. The slower consuming demand, coupled with poorer quality, weakened the market at shipping point and reduced the demand to a very low ebb.

"South Carolina has a good crop of melons this season. Shipments are now moderate, and sizes are running heavily to 30-pound average and larger. The quality is good and the shipping-point demand has been very satisfactory."

7b. EASTERN SHORE POTATOES PAST THEIR PEAK

V. H. Nicholson sent the following letter from Pocomoke City, Md., on July 14:-

"The Eastern Shore potato movement probably passed its peak last week, when a total of about 3,960 cars was shipped. On Wednesday, July 8, about 899 cars were shipped, and that will probably be the heaviest day this season.

"Movement this week will probably be around 2,500 carlots from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, with additional quantities from Maryland. Some of the shippers estimated that about two-thirds of the crop had moved by last Saturday night. As the Virginia output to that time totaled 9,216 cars, it would mean that between 4,500 and 5,000 yet remained. This would bring the total shipments to about 14,000 cars, or 3,600 less than last season.

"The f.o.b. market has been rather dull during the past week, with the price on Monday down to $1.75-$1.85 per barrel. Indications are that it may go lower today. There has been a fairly good distribution of shipments during the past few days, but the Kaw Valley crop has begun to compete with Eastern Shore stock in the Middle West. Shipments from the Norfolk section

are still heavy enough to supply the southern markets and practically no Eastern Shore stock has been billed South.

"The cucumber movement from around Salisbury has been quite heavy. Shipments from Maryland last week amounted to 281 cars, and the Delaware shipments totaled 94 cars. Yields are reported as being very good, but the quality is not so good as at the beginning of the season. If the weather continues favorable, with frequent rains, shipments will probably be quite heavy all this week and part of next. From present indications, total movement will probably be far in excess of the shipments of last season.

"There has been a fairly good distribution of cucumber shipments. The bulk of the carlot movement has been going to the middlewestern markets, and there have been several cars billed to points in Missouri and Minnesota. However, the price declined steadily all week and, on Monday, most bushel hampers were selling at 40¢-60¢ at the Salisbury auction block. Growers'-pack in bushel tubs brought mostly 60¢-90¢."

8b. DAMAGE TO CALIFORNIA FRUITS FROM EXTREME HEAT

A telegram of July 15 from C. J. Hansen, of the San Francisco office, reads as follows:-

"Recent hot spell in California reported to have done considerable damage to peaches, pears and plums, and in some localities apples were considerably damaged. The maximum temperatures last week were above the 100° mark, and in the interior sections of the State the deciduous fruits generally show some sun-scald and ripening was prematurely hastened, causing small size. One large shipper estimates not over 2,500 cars of pears to be shipped after July 25, while normal shipments after that date exceed 5,000 cars. In some sections of California, damage is reported to grapes, melons and tomatoes.

"Fruit crop prospects in southern Oregon were very fine during June. The valley had 3.71 inches of rainfall, assuring good size for pears. Medford expects to ship first car of Bartletts by July 24th."

Note: The California Crop Reporting Service at Sacramento is making inquiry to determine the extent of damage to fruits, as mentioned above.

9b. VIRGINIA APPLES TO LONDON

A Winchester, Va., dispatch of July 10 said:- "The first carload of 1931 apples to be shipped from the Winchester district for export is being forwarded from New York today on the steamer 'American Trader' for London, England. The apples were Yellow Transparents, 2 inches and up, and were inspected and graded as U.S. No. 1. The fruit leaving today was grown in orchards near Winchester, and was picked and packed this week in bushel baskets. They are summer varieties and therefore will not be in competition with late fall Australian and Tasmanian apples now being marketed in England."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.*	May 21	June 17*
			Potatoes	June 12	Aug. 1
			Cucumbers	July 2	July 25
			Cants.	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 10
CANDOR, N. C.**	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 20	Aug. 12
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	875	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	July 20	Aug. 20
FRESNO, CALIF.**	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 20	Nov. 7
The following stations close on dates indicated:					
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	R. G. Risser	Cants.	June 25	July 18
MOULTRIE, GA.** Chamber of Commerce	832	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	June 29	July 17
HUMBOLDT, TENN.**	806	J. B. Owens	Tomatoes	July 1	July 15

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. L. Sutton in New York
R. G. Risser in Los Angeles
J. B. Owens in Chicago
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
A. M. McDowell on leave
W. G. Thompson in Philadelphia
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

On request, the following article was prepared by C. O. Bratley, Associate Pathologist of B.P.I. in the New York City office:-

1c. MARKET DISEASES OF WESTERN CHERRIES

In May and June, 1931, certificates issued by New York and other inspection offices in the East on cherries from California and the Northwest reported high percentages of Gray Mold Rot. A close examination revealed that Gray Mold Rot occurred rarely. The decays which the inspectors were mistaking for Gray Mold Rot were Brown Rot, Green Mold Rot and Rhizopus Rot. These three decays are responsible for most of thespoilage in western cherries during transit and while on the market.

Except for fruit from certain sections of the Northwest, Brown Rot causes more loss in cherries than all other decays combined, the severity depending on the weather at picking time. The lesions are brown, firm and at no time sunken. At first no fungous growth is visible but later grayish-brown spore-bearing tufts appear on the surface. Usually this growth lies very close to the surface of the fruit and no extensive aerial mycelium is produced. Occasionally, under very humid conditions, there is a fluffy growth which might be mistaken for Gray Mold. Ordinarily this growth can be rubbed from the surface without rupturing the skin on the decayed area.

Heretofore, Alternaria Rot and Cladosporium Rot have been considered as two distinct decays, since they are caused by two different organisms. However, since only through microscopic examination can the two be separated and, as far as known, they develop under the same conditions, it seems desirable to combine the two under the name Green Mold Rot. This decay usually follows skin breaks and is especially common on cracked cherries. The rot is brown, decidedly firm, and can be lifted out intact from the surrounding healthy tissue. The aerial mycelium on the surface of the lesion is usually scanty and low growing. This growth is white at first and gradually turns olive green with the production of spores. The affected area is usually small and enlarges slowly. Sometimes secondary organisns gain entrance through the lesion and destroy all of the initial symptons.

Rhizopus Rot occurs often in poorly-refrigerated fruit. The coarse mycelium (white at first and later gray-black to black), the small spherical heads on the mycelium, and the total collapse of the fruit into a watery mass, characterize the decay.

Blue Mold Rot rarely causes extensive loss in cherries. It usually follows wounding of the skin. The affected tissue is as soft and watery as Rhizopus Rot but the superficial mycelium is scanty and early turns the characteristic bluish-green color.

In Gray Mold Rot, the decayed area is more soft and watery than that of Brown Rot but much less so than that of Rhizopus Rot. The skin covering the lesion slips easily under pressure, while in Brown Rot the skin clings to the decayed tissue. Under the humid conditions of the cherry shipping lug, an extensive very-fluffy whitish-gray mycelial growth is produced. This growth is more extensive than that of any of the other common cherry-rotting fungi, except Rhizopus, and is composed of much finer strands than the latter.

CYRIL O. BRATLEY,
Associate Pathologist, B. P. I.

2c. GEORGIA PEACH INSPECTIONS BECOMING HEAVY

Under date of July 13, O. G. Strauss sent the following information from Macon, Georgia:-

"The peach deal here is now getting under way. Shipments of Hiley Belles will be heavy this week, the peak of this variety probably coming about Friday, July 17. There will probably be an overlapping of Hileys from Middle Georgia and Elbertas from South Georgia, as the heaviest shipments from Middle Georgia are expected to come next week, although they should ship heavily from that section the latter part of this week.

"This is the latest in recent years that Hileys have started, and the deal will last until about August 20, at which time extreme North Georgia should finish on Elbertas.

"I have 56 inspectors on or reporting at the present time and will probably need about 10 more, when Elbertas get under way. Inspectors are now placed from Americus to Newman, a distance of over 150 miles.

"The inspection work has become a little more stabilized since the State has held up a few cars and forced remarking or repacking. So far, they have succeeded on this policy and I am hoping it works out.

"I would not be surprised if, from now on, we would inspect close to 70% of the movement. On the early varieties we have inspected 50% and could have secured more, but the cost of these scattered cars is so great that it makes it almost prohibitive to handle some points until the movement of later varieties, when the tonnage increases.

"The quality is still good. A few points have been hit by hail but, on the whole, the quality is excellent. The size of Hileys will be small, although there will be a great many that will pack 2-2-6 and a big percentage will be over 1-3/4 inches. The recent rains covering the entire belt should give good size to the Elbertas and Georgia Belles."

3c. SEASON TOTALS ON MISSISSIPPI INSPECTIONS

In a letter of July 7 from New Orleans, F. S. Kinsey submitted the following report of shipping-point inspections in Mississippi. A considerable volume of additional inspection work was done, which does not appear in the following figures on carlot inspections. The period covered is from April 22 until July 1, 1931:-

	Beans	Beets	Cab-bage	Car-rots	Peas	Pota-toes	Toma-toes	Mixed Veg.	Pea-ches	Straw-berries	TOTAL
Apr.	-	-	17	-	85	-	-	4	-	6	112
May	22	5	727	-	143	3	-	189	-	61	1150
June	33	-	58	1	-	159	2141	40	1	-	2433
TOTAL	55	5	802	1	228	162	2141	233	1	67	3695

"July 1 practically saw the completion of inspections in the large trucking sections. Two inspectors have moved to the northern part of the State to inspect tomatoes and one man is inspecting peaches at Socier, in the southern part. The Mississippi Agricultural Service Dept. has employed Robert A. Fleming, who is known to various supervising inspectors in the field, for the purpose of carrying on inspections out of the regular trucking season and to develop the inspection work further.

"During the season just closed in Mississippi, Federal-State inspection was used quite generally where the volume loaded would justify the

expense. Only one shipper, so far as the writer was able to determine, did not use the service on tomatoes, and this at an isolated point. All shippers in the regular trucking section, - the Crystal Springs-Hazlehurst district, - had their earlier vegetables inspected, as was the case at most of the isolated points.

"This was the first season, that they could remember, when peas did not fall below $1 a hamper. Both shippers and growers quite generally laid this condition to the inspection. Growers generally were trying to leave their pea vines and immature and overmature pods at home, so that even the cars which were made up of truckloads that did not 'pass' were said to surpass in quality the average of shipments of past years."

4c. ANNUAL SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

According to a tabulation in the July 7 issue of the Inspection Letter, published by F. E. Bailey, at Yakima, about 47,000 carloads of fruits and vegetables were inspected at shipping points in Washington during the past fiscal year. This is the highest record in the last nine years, as shown by these annual totals for the State:-

1922-23.... 8,917	1925-26.... 25,062	1928-29.... 37,505
1923-24....15,360	1926-27.... 30,155	1929-30.... 35,100
1924-25....14,980	1927-28.... 29,482	1930-31.... 47,001

About 1,060 of these cars were inspected during the month of June, including 444 lettuce, 282 apples, 157 peas, and 60 mixed vegetables.

The record by commodities for the past fiscal year, ending in June, 1931, was as follows:-

Apples.....	35,106½	Mixed F. & V.	28
Apricots.....	30	Nursery Stk.	1
Asparagus.....	69	Onions.....	778
Berries, F.P.	6	Peaches.....	16
Blackberries.....	1	Pears.....	3,230
Cabbage.....	2	Peas.....	666½
Cantaloupes.....	4	Potatoes.....	4,545½
Cauliflower.....	43	Prunes.....	432
Celery.....	4	Raspberries.....	94
Cherries.....	63½	Rhubarb.....	20
Crabapples.....	2	Rutabagas.....	12
Grapes.....	1	Spinach.....	168
Lettuce.....	961	Strawberries.....	14
Mixed Fruit.....	189	Tomatoes.....	248
Mixed Vegs.	244	Watermelons.....	22
		Total	47,001

5c. INSPECTION OF UNITED STATES APPLES AT MONTREAL, CANADA

Many cars of apples grown in the United States are shipped by rail to Montreal, Canada, for export to Great Britain. In order to handle requests for the quarantine certificates, G. Ray Warren has gone to that port and will have his headquarters during the summer in care of W. C. Sproule, 300 St. Sacrement Street, Montreal.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, Texas	Vegetables	Nov. 20	Aug. 1
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ALABAMA:	J. A. Marks, P.O. Box 166, Foley, Ala.	Vegetables	Apr. 13	July 25
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Nashville, Ark.	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	Aug. 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	Aug. 10
VIRGINIA:	Robert Bier, Cape Charles, Va.	Potatoes	June 8	July 27
ARIZONA:	E. L. Ruch, 615 Security Bldg., Phoenix, Ariz.	Cants. Grapes	June 15 June 25	July 18 Aug. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Humboldt, Tenn.	Tomatoes	July 1	July 25
KANSAS:	V. V. Westgate, c/o State Board of Agr., Topeka, Kans.	Potatoes	July 6	Aug. 15

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Missouri potatoes.....F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office
Iowa onions.....R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Kentucky products.....T. C. Curry, Louisville office
Oklahoma products.....Okla. Market Commission, Oklahoma City
Massachusetts onions.....O. A. McNiff, Springfield, Mass., office

6c. SHORT GRADE FORMS SENT TO INSPECTORS

During the past week, short grade forms on Fresh Plums and Prunes were mailed to all inspectors. If anyone was overlooked, he should request a copy from the Washington office.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

W. E. Leigh, of the Standardization Project, went to Hancock, Md., last Monday with S. B. Shaw, in charge of the Maryland cooperative inspection work, where they met the local inspector who is handling inspections of apples in that vicinity. They conferred regarding the lower limits of color permissible in Duchess apples, suitable for export to Great Britain.

Herbert Graff has recently made two trips to Charlottesville and Shipman, Va., for the purpose of inspecting a considerable number of carloads of Florida grapefruit, stored in transit at those points since May.

Recent transfers to the staff of the Fruit and Vegetable Division include Paul M. Williams and Loyde M. Billman, from the Warehouse Division, and Mrs. Julietta H. Sullivan from the Solicitor's Office. Messrs. Williams and Billman will handle the new work on the grading of canned products, and Mrs. Sullivan is doing stenographic work in connection with public hearings under the P.A.C. Act. Mrs. Sullivan's desk will still be in the Solicitor's Office.

H. A. Spilman and R. H. Shoemaker, of the Regulatory Branch, will be on annual leave during most of July.

C. R. Newton, of the Regulatory Branch, was in New York for several days during the fore part of this week, making investigations in a case under the P.A.C. Act.

W. C. Hackleman, of the New York office, and J. J. Gardner of the Pittsburgh office of the Inspection Service, are in Washington today, attending the conference on apple grades.

J. D. Hamilton, of the Portland market-news office, expects to be on annual leave at Medford from July 21 to about August 1, after which he will proceed to Walla Walla, Wash., where he will operate the service on fresh prunes. B. E. Surry will handle the Portland work during Mr. Hamilton's absence.

M. A. Russell, of the Chicago inspection staff, will be on leave from July 20 to August 1, and then will go to southern Illinois to supervise the shipping-point inspections of peaches.

W. A. Hilgeson, who substituted for F. M. Lyle, at Kansas City, has returned to the Chicago inspection office.

(over)

OFFICE NOTES (Continued): D. M. James, of the Harrisburg office, is also among those attending the apple grading conference in Washington today.

B. H. Rowell, who had been substituting in the Indianapolis office, has now gone to Milwaukee, where he will assist with the inspection work for about two weeks. D. L. Lacy, who was assisting in Milwaukee, will be on vacation until August 1.

M. W. Baker has returned to his headquarters in the Columbus office, and Grover Clyde, who substituted for him during the past few weeks, has now gone to the Chicago office of the Inspection Service.

As noted last week, G. W. Winfrey is now located at Nashville, Ark., supervising the heavy inspection work on peaches in that territory. In addition to the work on peaches, he has applications for inspection of about 500 cars of watermelons at Hope, near Nashville.

J. M. Foote, formerly a member of our market-news staff and now in charge of standardization work for the State of Arizona, was rather seriously injured in an automobile accident at Phoenix last week, but he hopes to be able to return to duty within the next week.

A. E. Prugh completed his work at Brawley, Calif., and went to the Los Angeles office for a few days. He plans to open the market-news office on grapes at Fresno early next week.

R. G. Risser probably will close the Phoenix office on Arizona cantaloupes at the end of this week, and will then be located temporarily in the Los Angeles office.

J. B. Owens has gone to the Chicago office temporarily, after closing the Humboldt, Tenn., field station on tomatoes this week.

Since the southern Georgia watermelon movement is about completed, R. M. Peterson will move his headquarters to Macon by Monday, July 20. He will share office space with R. E. Keller, in the Georgia Casualty Bldg.

A. M. McDowell, who substituted for M. M. Thomas at St. Louis, while the latter was in the Chicago training-class and then on annual leave, has now gone on his own vacation of two weeks.

A hearing under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act in the complaint of R. W. Burch, Inc., Plant City, Fla., against the Union Grocery Company of Scranton, Pa., has been set for July 21 in the Federal Court room at Scranton. The case involves the rejection of a carload of citrus fruit.

Paul M. Williams expects to leave Washington on Monday for a trip in the interest of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Project. He plans to stop at Chicago, Kansas City, Tulsa, Springfield, Mo., and Louisville, as well as other points, returning to Washington about August 1. He expects to make arrangemnets for space in the Chicago office, and will instruct some members of the Inspection Service, particularly R. B. Landrum and T.C. Curry, in the grading of canned fruits and vegetables. It is probable that considerable work will be done on tomatoes in the immediate future. Mr. Williams will also interview eligibles for appointment to this new work.

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Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. AIR TRAVEL

Under the new Government Travel Regulations, air lines have been added as a means of transportation. Permission to travel by air is granted when the cost of same does not exceed travel by rail or water or other ordinary means of conveyance, plus Pullman berth or seat charges and subsistence charges. The application of subsistence charges in the regulations governing air travel may be found in Paragraph 8 of the Travel Regulations effective July 1, 1931. In the use of air lines, however, it must be borne in mind that special rates to the Government are based on one way, plus Pullman cost, whereas railroad and steamship lines are constantly offering very attractive round-trip excursion rates, which must be considered in connection with any air travel contemplated. These excursion rates may be available at the particular time when it is desired to make use of air lines.

2a. NEW PRODUCE TERMINAL IN BALTIMORE

Through W. E. Harrison, of our Baltimore office, we have received pictures and a complete account of the opening of the new Pennsylvania Railroad Produce Terminal, at the site of the former Mt. Vernon shops, just north of North Avenue, along the tracks of the old Northern Central Railway, in Baltimore. The building was formally opened last Tuesday, July 21, and business operations at the new location will begin next Monday.

This new structure is one of the most modern and complete produce terminals in the country, devoted entirely to fruits and vegetables. The building itself, constructed of brick and re-enforced concrete, is 660 feet long and 82 feet wide. The first floor is devoted entirely to display space for fresh fruits and vegetables, unloaded directly from cars on the tracks which run along two sides of the building. On the second floor, offices are provided for members of the trade and for the railroad agents. About 25 local dealers will be accommodated in these offices. Restaurant, lunch-room, and telegraph and telephone facilities are also provided on the second floor.

The team-track delivery yard of the new terminal includes 10 tracks, separated by 60-foot driveways. These tracks are 2,300 feet long, with a total yard capacity of 325 cars. Between each pair of tracks, inspection platforms are built on a level with the car floors for convenience in entering and inspecting cars. The terminal is conveniently located with respect to lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad running north, south and west, thus facilitating the movement and unloading of cars of perishables.

In this connection, it should be remembered that the B. & O. Railroad in Baltimore opened a large new produce terminal last October, and all the fruit auction sales are conducted in the excellent auction rooms at that terminal. This building is 565 x 90 feet, and has floor space for display of 90 cars of produce. The Fruit and Produce Guide for July 18 devoted more than four pages to a description of these Baltimore terminals and accounts of the leading produce firms, with pictures of important dealers.

3a. LIST OF MANUFACTURERS AND JOBBERS OF CONTAINERS

The Standard Container Project has recently issued a revised List of Manufacturers and Jobbers of Fruit and Vegetable Containers. It was compiled by Mrs. Gladys Burrows. The list contains the names of 847 manufacturers, some of whom do a jobbing business. About 73 jobbers are listed. The list is arranged by States and alphabetically by towns and cities. After each firm's or individual's name are key letters, indicating the containers which are manufactured or sold by that firm. About 20 types of containers are listed. Copies of this directory can be had from Mr. Carey's office in Washington.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. REVISED FORM FOR INITIATING COMPLAINTS UNDER P.A.C. ACT

A form for presenting a "PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FACTS" relating to an apparent violation of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act has been prepared, to be used in place of the complaint-blanks heretofore used. A small supply of the new form is being mailed to each branch office for distribution to those who may apply for same. Any old complaint-blanks on hand should be destroyed at once.

Experience has shown that some of the essential facts were often omitted from the complaints which had been filed, making it necessary to request that new complaints be filed in a different form. Changes in the procedure in handling complaints have also resulted in some changes in the requirements as to the form and substance of complaints. Under the present procedure, practically any informal but complete statement of the facts constituting the apparent violation of the Act and giving the amount of damages claimed will be considered a sufficient basis for making the necessary preliminary investigation by correspondence or in person.

In many instances it may be possible to effect a settlement without making it necessary to hold a formal hearing. When it appears that a hearing will be necessary, in order to reach a decision and issue the necessary orders, the complainant will be provided with an outline indicating the information which must be furnished and the form in which it should be presented. The new form, "PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FACTS," simply indicates conveniently the essential information needed to enable the Department to take whatever action may be possible prior to the formal service of a complaint on the respondent and the setting of a case for hearing. Each branch office should keep a reasonable supply of these forms on hand. They are designated as Form PAC-7-3.

2e. DO YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF ABE CHERRY?

The Regulatory Branch desires to locate Abe Cherry, in connection with a complaint filed under the P.A.C. Act. It appears that Cherry's headquarters are in New York City or Brooklyn, but that the man himself is in the field much of the time and is known to have operated at shipping points in the southeastern States and Texas. If you know the present location of Abe Cherry or how it may be possible to find him, kindly advise the Washington office.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. PEAK OF GEORGIA ELBERTA PEACHES DUE JULY 28

R. E. Keller sent the following information in a letter of July 18 from Macon, Ga.:-

"The Georgia peach movement for the week just ending was approximately 2,050 cars, of which almost 2,000 were Hileys. The movement of this variety is well along and should be about completed by the middle of next week (July 23). Most of the growers south of Macon have stripped the trees of this variety. The Georgia Belles will move mostly during the coming week. Elbertas have started in a small way and by the middle of next week should be moving in volume. Total peach shipments for the coming week are estimated around 2,500 cars and for the following week (July 27-Aug. 1) at 3,500 to 3,700 cars, market conditions permitting. Georgia has 8,000 to 9,000 cars of Elbertas to move, but, because of the extremely low prices and overlapping of harvesting dates, it is problematical what the exact movement will be. The peak day for Elbertas is now predicted about July 28 and the completion of the harvest August 12.

"Hileys, as a whole, have run a little small, but the quality and color have been excellent. The size and quality of Georgia Belles, to be harvested next week, are excellent. Elbertas, likewise, are expected to be above average in this respect, especially in quality and color.

"Last week was the first heavy shipping period this season, and as a result prices tumbled. There is practically no f.o.b. demand. Hileys are now selling at $1 on medium-sized crates and at 60¢-65¢ on small sizes, in crates. As most of the stock is small, it is barely bringing harvesting costs."

2b. NORTH CAROLINA PEACH PRICES LOW

H. F. Willson wrote as follows from Candor, N.C., in a letter dated July 22:-

"The North Carolina peach season is getting under way this week. Beginning the week of July 27, the movement will be heavy, probably ranging from 100 to 150 cars daily. According to present indications, the peak shipments will be around the first of August. Even though the production is estimated at 50% greater than last year, there is little possibility of the total movement being over 25% greater than that of 1930, and most authorities are of the opinion that it will be less than that figure. Estimates indicate a total for the season of around 2,500 cars. Operators are urging the growers to ship only the better-quality and larger-sized fruit, keeping back all small and ordinary-quality stock. There undoubtedly will be an increase in the volume of truck business.

"The f.o.b. market on Hileys, U.S. No.1's, 2-inch minimum, opened at $1 per bushel basket, on a usual terms basis. A year ago, the opening prices ranged $2-$2.75, according to size. The demand continues slow and market weak. The supplies on the terminal markets have increased rapidly the past few days. On July 15 there were only 90 cars on track at the 12 leading markets, while on July 21 there were 410 cars on track."

-- IF YOU EVER FAIL TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY OF THE DIVISION LETTER, OR IF YOUR COPY CONTAINS ANY BLANK PAGES, REQUEST A COMPLETE COPY AT ONCE.

3b. EASTERN SHORE POTATOES NEARING END OF SEASON

V. H. Nicholson sent the following information in a letter of July 21 from Pocomoke City, Md.:-

"Forwardings of Eastern Shore of Virginia potatoes to date total 12,792 cars or about 2,000 less than at this time last year. Shippers are saying that about 80% to 90% of the crop had been moved by last Saturday night and that movement will be rather light after this week. Estimates of the total movement now range mostly from 14,000 to 16,000 cars for the season.

"The crop in Maryland has been variously estimated at 1,500 to 2,000 cars. Most of the No. 1 stock remaining in Virginia and Maryland will be shipped during the next 10 days, as New Jersey is expected to become a factor after the end of this week.

"Distribution of Eastern Shore shipments continues good. A few cars have been billed to southern points this past week, but about 30% of the shipments were billed west of Pittsburgh and the remainder to the Atlantic and New England States.

"The cucumber season will be practically finished before the end of the week. The price dropped to around 20¢-25¢ per bushel hamper on the auction at Salisbury last week, and many growers abandoned their fields. Shipments are already heavier than the total movement of last season.

"A light movement of cantaloupes is expected from around Salisbury this week. There will probably be a moderate movement next week, and peak shipments are expected between August 5 and 10. Most of the cantaloupes around Salisbury will likely be moved before August 15, but the Hurlock and Seaford districts are a few days later than Salisbury."

4b. PROGRESS OF THE NORTHWESTERN MARKETS

T. R. Hall sent the following report from Seattle under date of July 18:-

"The harvest and movement of various soft fruits from eastern Washington gained impetus by mid-July, with apricots, early peaches, and plums being shipped in volume, in addition to cherries. Southern Oregon will ship its first car of pears of the 1931 crop before the end of July, and Washington pears will be ready about the same time. Canneries in the Yakima Valley are bidding from $40 to $50 per ton, but this range of prices is attracting little early interest. The apricot harvest is probably at its peak.

"A healthy potato market followed the release of the July 1 estimate figures, which were slightly under the expected forecast. However, an accumulation of stocks in the Coast markets is producing a weaker tendency among shippers. Locally-grown potatoes are appearing in Portland and Seattle.

"Western Washington green peas continue to hold their favorable position which developed early in July. Packers are paying as high as 8¢ per pound to the growers for field-run peas, and the bushel hampers are in active demand, f.o.b. cash track, at a range of $2.75-$3. The crop is not as large as at first anticipated, which accounts for the relatively high market. Iceberg lettuce has improved in quality and is meeting a satisfactory demand within a general range of $2.25-$2.75 per crate of 4 to 5 dozen heads. Greatest activity is in the lettuce sheds north of Seattle, although some shipments are going forward from the Kent and Auburn districts."

ALL MARKET NEWS OFFICES EVERYWHERE should advertise in their mimeographed reports the opening of inspection offices at Scranton, Pa. and Fargo, N.D.

5b. ADDITIONS TO THE "GOD-GOS" AND "C" PAGES OF THE CODE

Effective Thursday, July 30, please add the following to the "GOD-GOS" page of the code. It will be used with the proper terminal indicating the day on which sales were made:-

GOQ - Wire Auction Sales (Rolling Cars)

Effective July 30 also, add to the "C" page of the code (General Statement of Receipts and Supplies) the following:-

OQ - account holdovers
OR - including holdovers.

These are to be used with proper "supply" prefixes, such as: "CUWOQ - Supplies heavy account holdovers," etc.

6b. POTATOES IN SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA DAMAGED BY HEAT

L. C. Tate has sent his first field letter from the Minneapolis office under date of July 13, as follows:-

"It seems that the extremely high temperatures in this locality during the first week of July damaged the early potato acreage of the sandland territory. The young set of tubers appeared to have its growth checked during the heat wave, causing present conditions to bring on a widespread disorder of second-growth and growth-cracks. Local dealers claim that almost 20,000 acres are affected in this manner. Yields from these fields are still indeterminate but it seems natural to assume that quality will be low.

"Mr. Ferguson, of the local office, and I have visited numerous fields in this immediate locality during the last four days and we find these potatoes to be very small for this date. Though I am not familiar with field conditions here a year ago, it appears that the heat has caused as much delay in the crop of the sandland territory as did the drought last season.

"Early news from the Red River Valley to the effect that growing conditions have been ideal to date indicates a normal or better than average condition in the fields in that section,

"Active digging of the early sandland crop will probably not get under way until the first of August, although some movement by truck to nearby markets has already started. So far, there has been nothing but egg-sized potatoes."

7b. CROP NOTES FROM UTAH

L. S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, sent the following notes in a letter dated July 15:-

"The cherry crop in Utah was very light this year, less than 20 cars being shipped. Harvesting conditions were favorable and the quality better than usual. Prices received by growers were generally satisfactory.

"The apricot crop is very heavy. Probably about 40 cars are available for shipment, provided dealers can find satisfactory markets. Some dealers are offering the growers $30 per ton, f.o.b. the car. Most cars are being packed in half-bushel baskets. The most common varieties from this section are the Moorpark and Jones or Chinese.

"Potatoes are commencing to move from the earlier districts. Irish Cobblers will be ready next week. The Early Ohios have been moving to nearby markets in Montana, Colorado and Wyoming. Dealers are paying 85¢ per 100 lbs."

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.*	May 21	June 17*
			Potatoes	June 12	Aug. 1
			Cukes*	July 2	July 25*
			Cants.	July 27	Aug. 15
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 10
CANDOR, N.C.**	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 20	Aug. 8
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	875	R. M. Peterson	W-melons	July 20	Aug. 20
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
The following station probably will open on date indicated:					
WALLA WALLA, WASH.	939	J. D. Hamilton	Prunes	Aug. 10	Sept. 12

** State cooperating. *Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
R. G. Risser in Los Angeles
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. L. Sutton in New York
W. G. Thompson in Philadelphia
J. B. Owens in Chicago
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
A. M. McDowell on leave in Penna.
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Maine.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

8b. CROP NEWS FROM COLORADO

Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, sent the following report on July 18:

"The potato movement from western Colorado was fairly liberal last week. Most of the potatoes came from the Fruita section, west of Grand Junction, with a few cars from the Eagle Valley. Prices drifted gradually lower, with dealers paying $1.05-$1.10 on Monday and only 90¢ on Thursday. Friday's and Saturday's markets were unsettled, on account of much lower quotations from Utah.

"Carlot movement of green peas from the State is expected to begin late this week. Lettuce shipments to date are now 165 cars, compared with 127 at the same time last season. The mixed-vegetable movement has been curtailed on account of a lack of variety of mixed vegetables."

THE UTAH LETTER on the preceding page continues as follows: "With irrigation water depleted in most of these early potato districts, movement is expected to be heavy through August. The acreage of Cobblers is about the same as last year, but a considerable increase is expected in Bliss Triumphs."

B. C. BOREE, Specialist in Mkt. News.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. A VERY IMPORTANT MEMORANDUM No. 72

With this D.L., each inspector will receive a copy of Memorandum No.72. This gives instructions regarding a change in the language of grade statements, effective August 1. It should be carefully studied by each man before any certificates are issued on August 1 or thereafter. These instructions supersede conflicting directions given in the Handbook, the Division Letter, and in Memorandum No. 71, which was issued last December.

2c. TWO NEW TERMINAL INSPECTION OFFICES

An office for receiving-point inspections has been opened at Fargo, North Dakota. R. C. Hastings is in charge and his local address is: State Seed Commissioner's Office, College Station, Fargo. This office is No. 52.

A receiving-point inspection office has also been opened in the Chamber of Commerce Building, at Scranton, Pa., with C. L. Packard in charge. This new office is No. 53.

Please add both these offices to the lists of inspection headquarters and also in Par. 114, Part I, of the Inspection Handbook. Give these new offices as much publicity as possible.

3c. GRADES SENT TO INSPECTORS

A few days ago, Mr. Pailthorp's Project sent to all inspectors copies of the revised U.S. Standards for Apples; also copies of the New Jersey Grades for Apples. If anyone was overlooked in this distribution, he should request copies promptly.

With this D.L., each inspector will receive a copy of the revised U.S. Standards for Juice Grapes.

Early next week, copies will be distributed of the revised U.S. Standards for Table Grapes, with special reference to California grapes.

4c. CHANGES ON LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following name should be added to the List of Past-Due Accounts:-

John F. Thomas, 105 King St., East,- Toronto, Canada $8.00

The following names should be taken off the List of Past-Due Accounts:-

Pangburn Truck Growers Assn.,	Pangburn, Arknasas	$1.00
Lee and Houghton,	Waterford, Pa.	$4.00
Kistner Florida Company,	Zolfo Springs, Fla.	$9.98

5c. KAW VALLEY POTATO YIELDS HEAVIER THAN EXPECTED

R. E. Corbin, of the Kansas City office, wired as follows today to Mr. Boree:- "Yields in Kaw Valley now running heavier than expected. Probably one-third through. Local estimates 1,500 cars yet to roll, plus season total of 400 or 500 carloads by truck to Nebraska and western Kansas points. Expect around 600 carloads by truck, if markets favorable."

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING JUNE, 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for Lack of Time	Total Fees
Atlanta	55	50	2	0	$234.00
Baltimore	65	40	16	1	234.50
Birmingham	15	-	1	0	53.00
Boston	497	314	374	12	1,778.49
Buffalo	32	40	0	0	128.50
Chicago	205	143	7	0	795.50
Cincinnati	66	53	0	2	287.84
Cleveland	63	76	30	0	291.79
Columbus	41	33	4	0	165.44
Dallas	8	-	0	0	61.80
Denver	48	23	3	0	192.00
Des Moines	24	-	0	0	108.03
Detroit	81	132	1	0	314.00
Fort Worth	6	8	0	0	23.00
Harrisburg	23	5	6	3	128.75
Indianapolis	29	23	0	0	134.37
Jacksonville	53	-	0	0	213.00
Kansas City	98	79	33	0	384.02
Los Angeles	7	2	3	0	27.50
Louisville	14	-	0	0	67.75
Memphis	30	55	24	0	134.50
Milwaukee	175	119	75	0	619.05
Minneapolis	39	27	1	0	161.08
Newark	67	44	2	4	268.74
New Haven	96	47	11	4	452.93
New Orleans	134	114	16	0	222.50
New York	898	814	571	0	3,128.32
Norfolk	14	15	2	1	60.00
Omaha	51	50	37	2	213.93
Philadelphia	139	169	2	0	502.02
Pittsburgh	126	228	8	0	531.85
Portland	10	4	7	0	48.50
Providence	26	37	0	0	115.38
Rochester	18	15	0	0	96.78
St. Louis	117	97	30	2	466.08
Salt Lake City	2	7	0	0	6.50
San Francisco	7	2	0	0	24.50
Seattle	5	2	0	0	20.00
Springfield	43	34	14	2	221.77
Toledo	8	15	0	0	30.50
Trenton	0	5	0	0	---
Tulsa	14	-	1	0	145.52
Washington	45	16	7	1	311.24
Wilkes-Barre	33	45	3	6	126.48
TOTAL	3,527	2,982	1,291	40	$13,531.45

The following inspections were made under cooperative agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:- Total 2,419: 54 B.&O., 11 Erie, 1,379 Nickel Plate, 752 Penna., 103 Kroger's, 29 Federal Cold Storage.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING JUNE, 1931

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

Symbols:- N- NAVY M- MARINE CORPS

STATIONS	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED		Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED		TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-weight	
	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
GREAT LAKES	121643	0	600	0	122243	0	50	0	0	0
NEWPORT	352725	0	16792	0	369517	0	1846	0	0	0
NEW YORK	529746	52902	25708	732	555454	53634	30	0	0	0
NORFOLK	76841	0	0	0	76841	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	*281771#	20738#	2384#	201#	*284155#	20939#	553#	94#	0	0
SAN DIEGO	670040	88069	9231	6302	679271	94371	1557	513	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	574055	48000	64000	0	638055	48000	0	0	0	0
SAN PEDRO	635213	0	6908	0	642121	0	1138	0	0	0
VALLEJO	261016	19153	13053	1120	274069	20273	62	15	0	0
WASHINGTON	16908	0	1115	0	18023	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3519958	228862	139791	8355	3659744	237217	5235	622	0	0

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U.S. SHIPPING BOARD

NEW YORK	6031	158	6189	0	0
ST. LOUIS	16531	235	16766	0	0
TOTAL	22562	393	22955	0	0

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U.S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL

CHICAGO	92124	137459	229583	0	0
GREAT LAKES	56185	7760	63945	0	0
MILWAUKEE	15607	517	16124	0	0
NEW YORK	184028	6067	190095	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	56022#	5880#	61902#	0	0
TOTAL	403966	157683	651649	0	0

The New York office also inspected the following:

	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	350191	128070	5775
Munson S.S. Line	27403	12979	50
Dollar Line	28837	13983	500
American France Line	22850	4028	934
American Diamond Line	9424	2198	60
American Brazil Line	10019	1456	780
Columbia S.S. Lines	5078	993	434
	453802	163707	8533

The San Pedro office also inspected 3306 lbs. bread; 4241 lbs. butter, and 472 lbs. cheese for Navy. Vallejo office inspected 25601 lbs. bread for Navy.

* - Including 20 inspections in May, not included in last report, covering 2232# passed, 1704# rejected, and 26# cut.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Parker Hotel, Weatherford, Texas	W-melons Cantaloupes	July 23 July 23	Aug. 6 Aug. 6
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Nashville, Ark	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	Aug. 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	Aug. 10
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
KANSAS:	V. V. Westgate, c/o State Board of Agr., Topeka, Kans.	Potatoes	July 6	Aug. 15

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Missouri potatoes..... F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office
Iowa onions..... R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Kentucky products..... T. C. Curry, Louisville office
Massachusetts onions..... O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Oklahoma products..... Okla. Market Commission, Oklahoma City.

OFFICE NOTES:-

J. W. Park left Washington on Sunday for a brief trip in the interest of the bulletin on auction companies. He planned to visit New York City, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago.

Wendell Calhoun plans to leave Washington next Monday, July 27, for a supervisory trip in the interest of the Market News Service. He will visit the middlewestern market stations as far as Minneapolis and Kansas City, probably returning to his desk around August 10.

T. C. J. Baker, of the Standard Container Project, left on Wednesday for a trip of two or three weeks on which he will visit package factories in North Carolina and northward along the Atlantic Coast, in the enforcement of the Standard Container Acts.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):-

A. R. Spiker, of the Transportation Unit in Washington, expects to be on leave at Woodtsock, Va., most of next week.

Sympathy is extended to Miss Virginia Gilliam, of the Washington office, in the death of her mother on July 17. One of Miss Gilliam's regular duties is the cutting of stencils for the weekly Division Letter, but she has been obliged to be absent, on account of her mother's illness, during most of the last two months. She probably will return next week.

Miss Verne Schult, secretary to Mr. Sherman, expects to leave next Saturday, August 2, on her vacation of one month. She will stop at the Mount McKinley National Park and the Glacier National Park, as well as at Seattle, but the most important part of her trip will be a tour of Alaska.

Robert Bier, who was stationed for the past six weeks at Cape Charles, while supervising shipping-point inspections of Eastern Shore potatoes, moved to Parksley, Va., this week, but will be back in Washington by next Monday.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, who was located at Onancock, Va., during the Eastern Shore potato season, also expects to return to the Washington office by the end of this week.

W. O. Smith, Jr., who was in charge of market reports in the Washington office from 1918 to 1921, was a visitor to the local office on Thursday. For a number of years, he has been in the produce business in Baltimore.

Stuart L. Sweet, a cooperative employee of this Bureau in the Denver office from 1917 to 1920, who worked very closely with the Fruit and Vegetable Division, is reported to have shot himself Wednesday of this week in the Black Forest, east of Colorado Springs.

J. A. Marks has about completed his personal supervision of shipping-point inspections in Alabama, and expects to return to the Pittsburgh office on Saturday of this week. Some inspections in Alabama may be made on sweet potatoes, but the extent of that work is very uncertain.

Shipping-point inspections of Arizona cantaloupes and grapes are completed, and E. L. Ruch, who supervised that work, has now returned to his headquarters in California, where he is a member of the inspection staff.

W. J. Bertush returned to his Chicago headquarters last Saturday, having finished the shipping-point work on western Tennessee tomatoes. About August 1, he expects to go to eastern Tennessee and supervise the inspection work on peaches.

H. T. Longino, Federal Supervising Inspector in Texas, will be located at Weatherford for the next two weeks, in order to handle the work on northern Texas watermelons and cantaloupes.

(over)

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):-

R. W. Tyson, of the New Haven inspection office, is on leave this week and next. Bolling Hall, of the New York City staff, has been sent to New Haven to substitute for Mr. Tyson.

C. D. Shirley, who has been assisting with inspections in New York City, was sent to Boston last week, to help with the work in that market.

W. C. Hackleman, Regional Supervisor in New York, will probably be in Boston two days the latter part of this week. E. E. Conklin, Jr., the Regional Supervisor in Chicago, has now returned to duty after being absent on leave about two weeks.

H. C. McCoy, of the New York inspection staff, was spending his vacation at Hedgesville, W. Va., but was called to the Pittsburgh office of the Inspection Service to assist with a rush of work on potatoes in that market.

Simon Lieberman, of the New York city staff of inspectors, is on leave from July 14 to 31. E. G. Batsford returned to New York from his vacation last Monday, having been absent about two weeks. R. C. Elliott, also of the New York office of the Inspection Service, was on a brief period of leave during early July.

W. E. Harrison and S. F. Shreve, of the Baltimore office, were among the many who attended the formal opening of the New Pennsylvania Railroad Produce Terminal in Baltimore last Tuesday. Mr. Shreve was in the Washington office this morning.

The D.L. was in error last week in stating that W. A. Hilgeson had been substituting in the Kansas City office of the Inspection Service. He was in St. Louis, but has now returned to Chicago.

Today, July 24, being a State holiday in Utah, the Salt Lake City office issued no market reports, because all the local markets were closed.

A. E. Prugh and L. T. Kirby, who operated the news service on cantaloupes in Imperial Valley this past season, have issued a seven-paged mimeographed preliminary review of the season, including distribution tables. The 1931 cantaloupe deal in Imperial Valley is characterized as "the worst marketing disaster that the Valley ever experienced," because of low prices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 31 July 31, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. POTATO GRADES ESTABLISHED FOR NEW YORK

Official standards for potatoes and special restrictions on the sale of cull potatoes will be put into effect in New York State on August 1, 1931, according to a statement by Commissioner Berne A. Pyrke, of the State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

This announcement follows a series of public hearings held during the past month at various points in the State, at which proposed regulations regarding the marketing and sale of potatoes were presented for discussion. The result of these hearings, according to Commissioner Pyrke, was to convince the officials that there is a general demand on the part of potato growers and shippers for regulation of the sale of potatoes along the lines proposed by the Department under authority of the new grading law, passed by the last session of the State Legislature. These grades for potatoes are the first set up under authority of the new law.

2a. LOUISIANA INSPECTION RECORDS

A total of 11,795 cars of fruits and vegetables intended for central markets received State-Federal inspection during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1931, as compared with 5,341 cars the preceding year, according to announcement by Hunter S. Moles, Supervising Inspector, stationed at Louisiana University.

That the State is capable of producing a variety of fruits and vegetables is evidenced by the fact that 34 different products were inspected at shipping points this year, compared with 17 products the year previous.

Strawberries, which produced an exceptional yield and quality this past year, headed the list of inspections with 4,683 cars. Irish potatoes came next with 3,429 cars; mixed vegetables, 1,193 cars; beans 731, cabbage 432, shallots 379, sweet potatoes 276 cars, with other fruits and vegetables, including some citrus fruits, making up the remainder.

The increase in inspection service this year was due, partly, to the fact that all shippers are supposed to hold Federal licenses. But the shippers are also discovering that shipping-point inspection protects them and guarantees a more-steady and more-reliable market, according to Mr. Moles' statement.

3a. HEAVY MOVEMENT OF WATERMELONS CAUSES A PRICE DECLINE

During the week ended July 25, Georgia shipped more watermelons than during any previous week of this season. About 3,020 cars moved from that one State, in addition to almost 3,000 from several other States together. The combined track-holdings in 12 large markets increased from 616 cars on July 18 to 1,707 cars on July 27. Cash prices of loaded cars at shipping points in Georgia have dropped to a range of $40 to $75. Since the average carload is around 1,000 melons, this means about 5¢ per melon, and the growers get less. Some cash-track sales were made on Tuesday as low as $30 per carload.

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MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. SOUTHEASTERN PEACH SHIPMENTS HEAVY AND PRICES VERY LOW.

H. F. Willson sent the following report on peaches from Candor, N. C., under date of July 28:-

"With total peach shipments averaging over 500 cars a day the past week and prospects for heavier shipments this week, the situation does not look very encouraging. North Carolina f.o.b. prices on a usual terms basis declined from a top of $1 for best medium to large sizes, crates or bushels, on July 21 to 50¢ on July 27. The demand has been slow and it has been increasingly difficult to sell on any terms. Even the most optimistic are not expecting any immediate change for the better. It is hoped that the general policy of not packing or shipping any fruit smaller than either 2 x 2 - 6 layer or 2-inch minimum will have a beneficial effect in clearing the terminal markets of poorer-quality small-sized fruit. However, the truckers are operating and, although there is a wide range in the quality which they are buying, undoubtedly a considerable quantity of culls and small sizes will find its way to the markets, particularly the smaller markets. Many of the truckers are demanding No. 1 fruit, because of the limited demand for poorer stock."

2b. EASTERN SHORE CANTALOUPES AND SWEET POTATOES STARTING

The following information came in a letter of July 28 from V. H. Nicholson, at Pocomoke City, Md.:-

"The Eastern Shore potato deal is about finished. Probably 500 to 700 cars remain in Virginia and about 500 in Maryland. It is expected that most of the remaining stock will be shipped during the next few days and that very few cars will be shipped after the end of this week.

"The crop has fallen considerably short of early expectations. Shipments from the Eastern Shore of Virginia will probably amount to about 15,000 cars or 2,500 less than the 1930 crop. Maryland output may total 1,600 to 1,800 carlots, or about three-fourths the shipments of last season.

"While shipments for the country have averaged less than 500 cars daily during the past week, the market has failed to advance materially. The f.o.b. price has remained around $1.60-$1.70 for nearly a week. Demand for Eastern Shore stock has been rather slow, and the trade seems to be waiting for the New Jersey crop to start.

"The Eastern Shore is expecting a large crop of sweet potatoes this season. There is a heavy acreage, especially in this vicinity and in Accomac County, Virginia. The growing season has been favorable and the crop appears to be in good condition. Movement is expected to start in a light way around August 10 or 15.

"The cantaloupe season started last week with the shipment of several truckloads from Salisbury. Several truckloads and a few cars were shipped from that station on Monday, and indications point to a moderate movement this week. The high prices of last season have been at least partially responsible for a moderate increase in acreage, and yields are expected to be heavier than a year ago. Quality of the first shipments has been quite variable, as many growers have been picking their crop before it reached maturity."

3b. HEAT WAVE IN DENVER BREAKS 20-YEAR RECORD

Bryce Morris sent the following report from Denver in a letter of July 24:-

"The past week has been the hottest in recent years for the Rocky Mountain territory. On Wednesday the temperature reached 100° in Denver, which is the highest temperature for that date in over 20 years. Very little rain has fallen throughout the region, and damage to crops no doubt will be excessive in the near future unless relieved by rainfall.

"Lettuce has begun to move in a limited way from the Granby district on the Western Slope, coming to Denver by motor truck. This Iceberg was selling here today at $4 per crate and is the best quality available in Colorado. San Luis Valley lettuce from La Jara and Del Norte was selling at $3.50-$3.75 per crate. Reports from the Valley indicate that the hot weather in that section has induced tipburn, so that the quality is only fair. Shippers were reported quoting Colorado Iceberg lettuce at $2.50-$3 per crate in straight cars, according to quality and solidity. Green peas are also moving moderately at this time.

"Potatoes apparently hit a temporary botton here this week with offerings of Cobblers from the Western Slope of Colorado selling at $1.65-$1.75. Occasional truckloads of small Cobblers from northern Colorado ranged $1.50-$1.65."

4b. CROP NOTES FROM MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT

In a letter of July 25 from Minneapolis, the following notes were submitted by L. C. Tate:-

"Hot weather during July damaged the homegrown tomato crop in this section. However, truck receipts on the local market are now liberal and this morning there was a sharp reduction in values of all carlot receipts. It appears at present that the late production of homegrown tomatoes will be up to normal, so that the local market is a closed affair for the balance of the season.

"Raspberries from nearby points are becoming scarce and liberal receipts from Washington brought 50¢ premium on the market this morning, as compared with values earlier in the week. Another week will probably bring the end of our local raspberry season.

"Yellow Globe onions from nearby points are being received here in small quantities. They are mostly of small size but show full maturity and are selling well in competition with other stocks."

5b. NEW JERSEY POTATO CROP MAY BE LIGHTER THAN AT FIRST EXPECTED

The following paragraph is quoted from a letter of July 21, written by one of the New Jersey State agricultural officials:-

"The New Jersey potato crop is not going to be as heavy as was expected earlier. Those farmers now harvesting are digging clean, bright potatoes of good size, but the hot weather following heavy rains has scalded some of the vines, especially in the low spots. I have heard of some blight showing up, but not as serious as has been seen at other times."

6b. ANOTHER SUMMARY ISSUED

"Marketing Colorado Peaches and Pears, 1930 Season," by Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, is a new summary issued this week.

7b. RECENT NEWS ON TEXAS WATERMELONS AND CANTALOUPES

W. D. Googe sent the following report in a letter of July 27 from the Fort Worth office:-

"The watermelon movement from Texas during the past week averaged slightly less than 100 cars a day, and practically all sections of the State were shipping except the early acreages in Brooks and Willacy counties. The Weatherford section was favored by good rains during the week ending July 18, following a period of dry and extremely hot weather. Shipments from that section during the week were light. It is estimated that less than 500 cars will be shipped from that vicinity, and the peak of the movement will occur around August 1.

"Heavy shipments from Georgia, South Carolina and other States on July 21, 22 and 23 have apparently demoralized the terminal markets, and cash buyers have practically ceased operations in this territory. Most cash sales have been made on the basis of 50¢ per 100 pounds for 30-pound average melons in carloads, while wire-order sales have ranged 10¢ to 15¢ higher. Larger sizes, up to about 37 or 38 pounds average, are generally bringing 2½¢ per pound more, while smaller sizes down to 24-pound average are generally sold at 2½¢ a pound less. The weather outlook for this week in the territory where Texas watermelons are mostly sold -- Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and the Dakotas -- is that unseasonably high temperatures will prevail, and dealers hope for better markets.

"The unusually large cantaloupe crop in northern Texas remains a problem which growers, shippers and others have not solved. From 20 to 30 cars a day have been moving, a large portion of them under contract, but only a few have been sold f.o.b. cash-track. The carlot movement from this part of the State is somewhat of a novelty. Quality has been irregular, due to hot weather, spotted rainfall during the growing season, lack of experience of growers in harvesting a cantaloupe crop for carlot shipment, and a number of other factors which affect cantaloupe quality. Few growers have yet received the returns from their shippers, but there is plenty of rumor current to the effect that, from a financial viewpoint, these growers will receive little encouragement for planting another crop of cantaloupes."

8b. A NEW "WO-WU" PAGE OF THE CODE

With this D.L., there is being mailed to all market-news offices a new code page, "WO-WU," which is to be used as a miscellaneous supplementary page for any commodity. This page is to become effective Friday, August 7.

9b. PLEASE CORRECT THE CODE ERROR MADE IN LAST WEEK'S D.L.

Because of the previous use of the code term "GOQ" (not discovered until last week's D.L. had been distributed), it was necessary to change the code term given in Par. 5b. A wire was sent to all offices the first part of this week, to make this addition read as follows:-

GOV - Wire Auction Sales (Rolling Cars)

Please make a suitable notation opposite this paragraph - 5b - in your copy of last week's D.L., to the following effect: "See Par. 9b in the D.L. for July 31."

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V.H.Nicholson	Stbr.	May 21	June 17*
			Potatoes*	June 12	Aug. 1*
			Cukes*	July 2	July 24*
			Cants.	July 28	Aug. 15
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. M. Peterson	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 8
	875		W-melons	July 20	Aug. 20
CANDOR, N.C.** A.F.G. Bldg.	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 20	Aug. 8
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
WALLA WALLA, WASH.	939	J. D. Hamilton	Prunes	Aug. 10	Aug. 29
ROCKY FORD, COLO.	821	R. G. Risser	Cants.	Aug. 20	Sept. 15
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.**	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 24	Sept. 19
			Peaches	Sept. 1	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sept. 1	Oct. 24
			Onions	Sept. 8	Oct. 24

** State cooperating. * Reports discontinued.

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
R. G. Risser in Los Angeles
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. L. Sutton in Washington
R. E. Keller on leave in Michigan

W. G. Thompson in Philadelphia
J. B. Owens to Pittsburgh by 8/6
A. M. McDowell to Cleveland by 8/6
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Maine

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

10b. AMERICAN FRUITS TO ENCOUNTER COMPETITION IN EUROPE

The following sentence has been copied from a cable received from the Bureau's representative in Berlin, Germany, yesterday:-

"American apples and pears will encounter heavy competition and poor demand conditions this year on most of the Continent, except possibly in Scandinavia." - The reason given is the good production on the Continent.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. CONDITION AS RELATED TO GRADE

The question has been raised as to whether shipments which are certified as "U.S. No. 1, decay being a factor of condition" really meet the requirements of grade at time of inspection. This question will be asked many times by receivers and other applicants for inspection. The Solicitor has ruled that, when the grade provides that decay and other deterioration which may have developed in storage or transit affects the condition and not the grade, we have no authority to certify the product below grade on account of decay. This ruling may be quoted, but the policy of the Inspection Service will be to make no attempt to settle disputes as to whether such shipments constitute good delivery under the terms specified in the sales contract.

The following opinion from the Solicitor's Office is quoted for the information of all inspectors:-

> "It is my opinion that one who buys in terms of the Washington grades is bound by their provisions and that for his own protection he should specify the percentage of decay or other factors of condition that he considers material. In the absence of such specification, however, it would seem that the seller warrants that the apples are merchantable within the grade. The question of merchantability is one of fact, to be determined by expert opinion."

The foregoing opinion would also apply to the U.S. Grades (Apples, Potatoes, Pears, Citrus Fruit) which have provisions similar to the Washington apple grades. Inspectors will seldom, if ever, know all the specifications of the sales contract and, when a complaint is filed under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, each case will have to be decided on its merits. There are so many factors involved that it would be impossible to outline a general policy governing the handling of complaints which involve the question of condition as related to grade. Many of these complaints will also involve the question of merchantability, which will probably be decided by those in charge of the administration of the P.A.C. Act.

2c. PACKING REQUIREMENTS - U.S. STANDARDS FOR APPLES

Attention has been called to the fact that the grade requirements and packing requirements are separate and distinct. A lot of apples should never be certified below grade on account of slack pack. When the lot of fruit is up to grade but the pack is slack, it may be certified as follows:-

> "Grades U.S. No. 1 but fails to meet packing requirements of this grade account of slack pack."

It will be desirable to make a statement of this kind especially when a complaint is made regarding the condition of pack.

THE ANNUAL TABLES OF INSPECTIONS, as they appear in our Annual Report to the Chief of Bureau, will be published as supplements to the Division Letter. Attached to this D.L. are the first three of these tables. Keep them.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Nashville, Ark.	Fruits and Vegetables	Apr. 27	Aug. 15
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	Aug. 10
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
KANSAS:	V. V. Westgate, c/o State Board of Agr., Topeka, Kans.	Potatoes	July 6	Aug. 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Parker Hotel, Weatherford, Texas	W-melons Cantaloupes	July 23 July 23	Aug. 6 Aug. 6
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Harriman, Tenn.	Peaches	Aug. 3	Aug. 15

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Missouri potatoes..... F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office
Iowa onions..... R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Kentucky products..... T. C. Curry, Louisville office
Massachusetts onions..... O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Oklahoma products..... Okla. Market Commission, Oklahoma City.
Ohio products..... M. W. Baker, Columbus office

3c. SHORT GRADE FORMS SENT TO INSPECTORS

During the past few days, copies of the short grade forms for Raspberries, Northern-Grown Onions, and Sawdust-Pack Grapes were mailed to all inspectors. If anyone was overlooked, he should request copies at once.

4c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following name should be taken off the List of Past-Due Accounts:-

Gledhill & Putnam Avoca, N.Y. $9.70

The following sum of $1.00 should be added as a further charge against:

A. E. Marsh Company Yakima, Wash. add $1.00; total now $5.00

5c. EXPORT FORM CERTIFICATE

The Special Certificate, specified by the British Apple Order, should not be issued unless the packages are marked to show: (1) the name and address of the packers, (2) the variety, (3) grade, and (4) minimum size.

The same rule now applies to the Export Form Certificate and the necessary information should appear in the label, stamp or stencil form, and, unless all points have been included, the Export Form Certificate will be refused. The marking requirements are in addition to the requirements as to freedom from spray residue, apple maggot and other worms. Markings as to minimum size apply to eastern apples in barrels and boxes and to jumble-packed boxes but not to tier-packed apples in boxes, which are marked with the number of apples contained therein. Shipping-point supervisors should call this matter to the attention of all licensees working under their supervision. -

R. C. BUTNER.

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. NET-LIKE RUSSETING PERMITTED IN U.S. APPLE GRADES

The question has arisen as to how much net-like russeting is permitted before an apple is considered damaged. The term "net-like" is not mentioned in the definition of russeting under 7 (a) on page 8 of the apple grades. However, this type of russeting is provided for in the third paragraph of this definition which states that "Russeting on other varieties which covers a total area of more than 25% of the surface in the aggregate, except etc." This allows any amount of net-like russeting which does not cover more than 25% in the aggregate; that is, if it was all brought together into one area. The thinner the netting, the more that would be allowed, and vice versa.

R. R. PAILTHORP.

OFFICE NOTES:-

Wm. E. Lewis plans to leave tonight for Norfolk, Va., where he will attend a conference of shippers for the discussion of the U.S. grades for spinach, this meeting to be held on Saturday. J. H. Meek will go from Richmond for this conference.

T. W. Ayres, of the New York City inspection staff, stopped in Washington today to confer with local officials. He was enroute to Virginia, where he will serve this season as the Federal Supervising Inspector on shipping-point work. Mr. Ayres will attend the spinach-grades conference at Norfolk and will then go to Richmond, before locating in the western part of the State for peach inspection work.

F. G. Robb, in charge of the Regulatory Branch, will be on vacation during the first two weeks of August and will enjoy a motor trip through New England. O. M. Harsha, also of the staff in the Earle Building, has gone on a month's leave at his home in Indiana.

R. L. Sutton, who has been substituting in the New York City market-news office, will come to Washington about Wednesday of next week and be stationed here temporarily.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):-

H. J. Clay, of the Washington staff, is on leave all of this week. He drove to Henderson, Ky., to bring back the members of his family, who have been on vacation in that city. Aaron Stanbaugh, also of the local office, has been on vacation for the past two weeks, but will return on Monday.

J. B. Owens, who has been in the Chicago office of the News Service since the middle of July, will proceed to Pittsburgh on August 6, where he will substitute for J. K. Boyd, while the latter is on leave.

A. M. McDowell, who has been on vacation at Canonsburg, Pa., will go to the Cleveland office next Thursday and substitute for A. B. Farlinger during the following two weeks, while Mr. Farlinger is on leave.

R. E. Keller left Macon, Ga., a few days ago for his vacation in Michigan. R. M. Peterson will handle the peach market reports, as well as the watermelon reports, at Macon during the remainder of the season.

W. C. Hackleman spent Wednesday in Philadelphia in relation to the receiving-point inspection work. Next Thursday, August 6, Mr. Hackleman is on the program of the Connecticut Fruit Growers meeting, at Storrs, Conn., for an address on the subject:- "U.S. Standards for the Inspection of Apples"

R. H. vonGlahn has been sent from New York City to Boston, to assist with the rush of inspection work in that market. Requests have been received for inspection of about 100 cars of watermelons in Boston.

Herbert Graff, inspector in Washington, was called to Harrisburg, Pa., to inspect a car of watermelons in that market on Wednesday.

W. W. Anderson, in charge of the Birmingham inspection office, has gone to New York City to assist temporarily with the work in that market. The BIRMINGHAM office will be CLOSED for the present.

W. J. Bertush, of the Chicago inspection staff, has proceeded to eastern Tennessee, where he will supervise the shipping-point work on peaches during the first two weeks of August. He is holding a training-class at Harriman, Tenn., his field headquarters, during the next day or two

D. L. Lacy returns from his leave next Monday and will report for duty in the Columbus office of the Inspection Service, where he will substitute for M. W. Baker, while the latter is in the field on Ohio shipping-point work.

B. H. Rowell, who has been assisting in the Milwaukee market, will proceed to Indianapolis next Monday, August 3, and substitute for J. E. Dickerson in that city.

W. E. Phillips will go from Toledo, Ohio, to Milwaukee on Monday, where he will substitute for H. A. Arenz, while the latter is on vacation.

(over)

CARLOT INSPECTIONS AT SHIPPING POINTS, LAST FIVE YEARS

The following table shows the number of carlot shipping-point inspections made in the States listed, during the last five years ending in June of year indicated:-

State	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Alabama	-	390	933	2378	1581
Arizona	1615*	2120	3554	3195	6486
Arkansas	975	457	1495	1176	575
California	50689	60934$	54574$$	50895%	58561@
Colorado	19159	22033	14811	26562	26711
Delaware	322	1126	913	912	1293
Florida	9997	6557	7644	6375	7576
Georgia	4080	2153	11389	2983	3894
Idaho	15852	24011	21732	24746	35221
Illinois	232	551	761	1104	472
Indiana	1890	1094	1627	2647	2977
Iowa	866*	531	830	997	1106
Kansas	1425	4464	3826	2891	3525
Kentucky	-	-	-	280	401
Louisiana	634	768	707	5338	11809
Maine	5567	5573	4117	5968	5938
Maryland	2852	2437	2496	2502	2035
Michigan	669	336	449	-	247
Minnesota	-	675&	553&	852	722
Mississippi	783	380	355	1051	3708
Missouri	278	694	560	1137	1988
Montana	425	581	692	461	595
Nebraska	330	-	-	612	3117
Nevada	-	30	67	52	105
New Jersey	611	936	802	397	1557
New York	3430	1700	6317	3770	8140
North Carolina	2127	5421	4730	5632	7678
Ohio	379	315	316	716	354
Oklahoma	775	728	1291	2173	1082
Oregon	9397	7050	10293	8428	13398
Pennsylvania	1668	1057	1766	2278	2975
South Carolina	633	1893	2202	2476	3286
Tennessee	275	1349	2683	3657	2505
Texas	8673	7509	7454	11676	21230
Utah	1345	1982	2193	2731	2864
Virginia	8531	6452	11062	11010	12776
Washington	30119	29497	37505	35133	47001
West Virginia	2796	2456	2153	2922	1921
Wisconsin	3821	3965	3677	4043	2539
Wyoming	-	627	672	1000	1334
Porto Rico	-	-	-	-	550
TOTAL	193220	210832	229199	243156	311833

All of the above inspections were made under cooperative agreements with the various States with the exception of those marked with a star. In these States shipping-point inspections were made as straight Federal inspections.

& - Minnesota inspections made under cooperative agreement with Iowa.

% - 586 additional L.C.L. $ - 379 additional L.C.L.

$$ - 529 additional L.C.L. @ - 1822 additional L.C.L.

Of the total 311833 cars inspected at shipping point, there were 498 reinspections made at receiving markets, 102 of which sustained the original.

July 31, 1931.

RECORD OF REINSPECTIONS, LAST FOUR YEARS

The following table shows the number of reinspections made in receiving markets, with reversals, on products from the various States, together with similar figures for the three preceding years:-

State of Origin	Reinspections Requested				Original Report Sustained				Original Report Reversed			
	1928	1929	1930	1931	1928	1929	1930	1931	1928	1929	1930	1931
Alabama	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Arizona	1	7	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	7	1	2
Arkansas	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
California	59	21	26	21	27	10	12	6	32	11	14	15
Colorado	12	9	15	46	2	3	0	4	10	6	15	42
Delaware	1	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	5
Florida	8	15	7	8	0	3	1	0	8	12	6	8
Georgia	0	7	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	7	10	9
Idaho	33	11	16	88	22	0	1	19	11	11	15	69
Illinois	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Indiana	1	5	5	6	1	1	2	2	0	4	3	4
Iowa	1	1	6	7	1	1	4	1	0	0	2	6
Kansas	5	1	6	4	0	0	1	0	5	1	5	4
Louisiana	0	3	2	27	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	24
Maine	16	13	52	36	2	3	6	13	14	10	46	23
Maryland	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2
Michigan	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	4	0	1	3	0
Missouri	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Montana	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
New Jersey	0	4	0	12	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	12
New York	7	11	6	12	1	1	0	0	6	10	6	12
North Carolina	4	6	8	18	3	3	2	5	1	3	6	13
Ohio	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Oklahoma	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0
Oregon	22	7	10	9	5	4	3	2	17	3	7	7
Pennsylvania	4	1	7	12	2	1	0	1	2	0	7	11
South Carolina	1	2	2	10	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	10
Tennessee	0	8	20	1	0	2	3	0	0	6	17	1
Texas	13	8	26	61	2	5	6	14	11	3	20	47
Utah	20	4	5	20	1	0	2	3	19	4	3	17
Virginia	9	7	7	20	4	0	3	9	5	7	4	11
Washington	20	14	21	34	12	9	6	14	8	5	15	20
West Virginia	2	4	2	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	3
Wisconsin	16	7	8	13	4	2	0	1	12	5	8	12
Wyoming	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	2
Total	264	190	293	498	90	50	55	102	174	140	238	396

The table above shows that during the past year one car out of 787 was reversed, while during the five previous years the records were: 1926- 1,390; 1927 1,682; 1928- 1,211; 1929- 1,637; 1930- 1,023. The plan which was adopted during the year 1926 of clearing all reinspections through the Washington office has been continued during the past year. We believe that this plan has not only shown a tendency to reduce the number of reversals to lower figures, but it has also been of considerable assistance in straightening out differences between shipping-point and receiving-point inspectors and has kept the work on a more uniform basis with regard to the interpretation of grades.- R.C.B.

(SEE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS SHEET)

July 31, 1931.

SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS BY PRODUCTS, FISCAL YEAR 1931

The following table shows the number of shipping-point inspections by products, year 1930 - 1931:-

FRUITS	
Apples	67790
Apples (Dry)	2
Apricots	62
Cherries	344
Crabapples	2
Grapes	25414
Grapefruit	1625
Lemons	18
Mandarins	7
Oranges	1608
Peaches	7974
Pears	10628
Pineapples	28
Plums	280
Prunes	2596
Strawberries	7328
Other Berries	96
" " (Cold Pack)	19
Tangerines	49
Mixed Citrus	622
Mixed Fruit	738
Mixed Fruit & Vegetables	284
Total	127514

NUTS	
Peanuts	1
Walnuts	31
Total	32

MISCELLANEOUS	
Bulbs (Flower)	7
Nursery stock	1
Total	8

VEGETABLES	
Anise	27
Asparagus	112
Beans (String)	1376
Beans (Fava)	14
Beets	421
Broccoli	114
Brussels Sprouts	1
Cabbage	6136
Cantaloupes	508
Carrots	3049
Casabas	1
Cauliflower	4925
Celery	8223
Chicory	44
Corn	1078
Cucumbers	511
Eggplant	9
Endive	8
Escarole	25
Garlic	76
Greens	29
Honey Balls	12
Honey Dews	3
Lettuce	14801
Onions	12366
Onion Sets	66
Parsley	53
Peas	3202
Peppers	371
Potatoes	98381
Radishes	42
Rhubarb	20
Romaine	1
Rutabagas	12
Shallots	379
Spinach	3089
Squash	2
Sweet Potatoes	1518
Tomatoes	16485
Turnips	78
Watermelons	505
Mixed Melons	52
Mixed Vegetables	6154
Total	184279

GRAND TOTAL	311833

July 31, 1931.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 32 August 7, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

The following item has been copied from The B.A.E. News of August 4:-

1a. TEMPORARY CLERK HIRE MUST BE AUTHORIZED

On account of reduced Federal receipts from various sources and the resultant U. S. Treasury deficit, all Federal Departments are being requested to make material reductions in their respective expenditures for the current fiscal year. In order to accomplish the necessary savings in operating expenses, it has become imperative to scrutinize very closely all costs.

Among the items of expense which amount to appreciable figures in the course of a year is temporary clerk hire. Due to the existing financial emergency, therefore, definite advice will be required by their Washington headquarters from all officers in charge of work outside of Washington, - where such offices employ two or more clerks or where two offices with one clerk apiece are located in adjoining and connecting rooms,- that it will be impossible at any time during the year to handle the current work without additional help for leave purposes before temporary employment will be authorized.

2a. SPECIAL CIRCULAR ON GRADING SERVICE FOR CANNED PRODUCTS

Under date of August 3, a special circular entitled "Official Grading Service for Canned Fruits and Vegetables" was mailed to all the leading members of the canning industry and to brokers and important grocers throughout the country. In order that all technical employees of the F. & V. Division may be informed about this work, copies of the circular are enclosed with this D.L. to such employees in the field.

3a. THE EFFECT OF HEAT ON POTATOES

The following is quoted from a special bulletin issued on July 24 by C. L. Fitch, Extension Horticulturist, Iowa State College of Agriculture:-

"Heat in the soil is the worst enemy of the potato crop in Iowa. The June heat was unprecedented in that month in my memory. It came as plants were tubering or starting to tuber. When the soil reaches 85°F. around a tuber, it stops growing. If around a tuber stem, it sets no tuber, but often comes on out of the ground and forms more top or a necklace of tubers, When growth starts again after a heat check, tubers form knobs or send out more stems and tops from the new tubers..... Heat does little harm to the leaves."

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. CONTINUED HOT WEATHER CAUSING CALIFORNIA GRAPE CROP TO SHRINK

On August 1, A. E. Prugh wrote as follows from Fresno, Calif.:-

"The grape crop continues to shrink on account of vine hoppers and abnormal heat. Toward the end of this week, the maximum temperature dropped to around 100° and minimum 65%, but the maximum was below 100° only three days during July and averaged 104.6 for the month. Growers have not been financially able to spray properly for hoppers and, according to all reports, these are difficult insects to combat. The hoppers cause the foliage to dry up, and the sun completes the damage.

"The estimate of the California Crop Reporting Service dropped 220,000 tons from July 1 to July 13, with a total of 1,522,000 tons estimated on the 13th, compared with 2,182,000 last year and 1,827,000 in 1929. From local reports of condition, the last estimate of the 1931 crop may drop 200,000 tons by August 1. A few Zinfandels moving this week were thrown out of grade on account of raisining. Inspections the week ending July 28 were Malagas 30%, Thompsons 59%, sawdust-packed Malagas 8%, and others 3%. The Exchange has been exporting some Malagas to the Orient.

"A few opening sales of Zinfandels have been made at $35 a ton, but this price is expected to advance if estimates of the short crop are borne out. Raisin Thompsons are reported to have advanced from 3½¢ to 4¢ per pound the end of this week.

"F.o.b. trading has been rather light so far, demand being for only the best stock, which is scarce. Thompsons have been bringing mostly 65¢-75¢, Malagas 80¢-90¢, Red Malagas $1.50 and Ribiers $1.50-$1.75 per lug.

"City auction prices have been fairly good, showing a wide range on account of quality. Weighted averages for all auctions the week ending July 31, compared with the previous week, were as follows:-

	Malagas	Thompsons	Red Malagas	Ribiers
This week:	$1.67	$1.66	$2.62	$2.85
Last week:	1.81	1.84	2.92	-

"Recent heavy movement of peaches of around 1,200 cars a day and similar movement of other deciduous fruits has offered keen competition for table grapes.

"The season was abnormally early this year, central California having moved 1,313 cars to July 31, compared with only 696 to the same date last year.

"The first car of grapes out of California this year was on May 30, which established a new record for early shipments. This car of Khalilis moved from Mecca in the Coachella Valley. The first car of Thompsons came from Mecca on June 2. On the New York market, the first car of Thompsons averaged $4.40; in 1930 the average on the first five or six cars was above $5; in 1929 the first car averaged $5.88 and the first car in 1928 also averaged $5.88."

2b. ANOTHER SUMMARY PUBLISHED

"Marketing California Grapes, 1930 Season," by W. D. Googe, is a new summary issued within the past week. It includes 73 pages, with a map of California and a chart of carlot shipments.

3b. RECENT NOTES FROM COLORADO

The following information on Colorado crops came from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, in a letter of August 1:-

"The Colorado lettuce movement has been light for the past week, with the volume expected to increase by August 5. However, dry weather in the San Luis Valley has somewhat retarded the growth there and induced considerable tipburn. Practically all lettuce moving from that section shows 15% to 35% tipburn. The quality in the San Luis Valley will continue fair to ordinary for the next two weeks at least. On the Western Slope, the Granby section started carlot movement this week and will have a limited supply from now on. The quality there is the best of any shipped from the State so far, but the volume will be too small to supply the demand for quality lettuce. A severe hail-storm was reported through the Yampa section Wednesday evening, July 29. Present reports indicate that the storm set the Yampa harvest back to August 15.

"Colorado green peas have been moving freely the last week. Shipments may continue fairly heavy for the next week but, after the first pickings are completed, a sharp drop is probable. However, fairly good rains fell throughout the State yesterday and, if the San Luis Valley received a good soaking rain (which seems probable), the second crop of peas will be better than previously anticipated.

"Previous to yesterday's rain, conditions were quite serious throughout all sections of Colorado on account of lack of moisture and dry reservoirs. Considerable damage has already been done to crops in the San Luis Valley, where recent estimates have been reduced to a range of 6,000 to 9,000 cars of potatoes. The Gilcreast-La Salle potato section of northeastern Colorado is about two weeks late this season, and, although the truck movement has already started, carlot shipments probably will not begin before August 10.

"Colorado shipments of mixed vegetables have been ranging near 50% of the total United States movement recently. Cabbage has been rather scarce and high at 75¢-$1 per cwt.,- mostly 75¢, cash to growers. Mixed beets and carrots were plentiful at 15¢-20¢ per dozen bunches, while turnips were rather scarce and brought 20¢-25¢. Colorado farmers, as a whole, were much encouraged by yesterday's general rain.

"Peaches continue to look favorable in the producing areas, but prices undoubtedly will be lower this season."

4b. DISTRIBUTION SHEET FOR NEW YORK LETTUCE SHIPMENTS

A. L. Thomas, of the Rochester office, has published an interesting sheet, showing the daily destinations of New York lettuce shipments during the month of July. On the reverse side of the sheet are the daily forwardings from New York and from each important competing State, with the U.S. totals by days. Of the 1,427 cars on which destinations were reported, 890 went to New York City, 133 to Philadelphia, 112 to Boston, and smaller numbers to 17 other city markets.

VERY HEAVY MOVEMENT OF PEACHES was the outstanding feature of produce markets last week. Shipments totaled about 8,040 cars, including some 1,300 cars for manufacturing plants in California. Georgia shipped 3,655 cars.

5b. AN IMPROVED DEMAND FOR NORTH CAROLINA PEACHES

The following letter of August 4 came from H. F. Willson, located at the Candor, N.C., field station:-

"Shipments of North Carolina peaches this past week were only moderate, averaging less than 100 cars a day. Growers and shippers have been holding back as much as possible hoping that, after the heavy shipments of Georgia and Arkansas were over, market conditions would improve. Another factor, resulting in a lighter movement to date than was generally predicted, is that the fruit is ripening much more slowly than ordinarily, probably due to the dry weather. Also the prevailing practice of packing only the best-quality, larger-sized fruit and the fact that, to date, even this best fruit has been selling for only a small margin above the actual cost of the container, picking and packing, has had a tendency to keep the shipments here to a low level.

"Beginning the latter part of last week, there has been a better demand for North Carolina peaches. At the present prices, an unusually large quantity is being consumed. Chain stores have been featuring peaches for the past week or 10 days. Even in face of the large supplies on the receiving markets, there is a more optimistic feeling at shipping point than at any time this season. The trade is looking forward to the latter part of this week, when total United States shipments will be lighter and there won't be so much competition from other States. The present week will be the heaviest shipping period of the North Carolina season, with probably a daily average of around 150 cars. Elbertas are getting under way in fair volume and will continue heavy through the first part of next week."

6b. GEORGIA WATERMELON AND PEACH MARKETS UNSATISFACTORY

R. M. Peterson, of the Macon field station, sent the following report in a letter of August 4:-

"The watermelon situation continues unsatisfactory, with fairly heavy shipments and generally light demand in the northern markets. It was felt that the week of August 2 would show some improvement, but southern Georgia has been shipping freely from a second crop that has come on with the Macon section, and the movement from North Carolina has exceeded expectations. Although the anticipated heavy movement from Missouri has not materialized as yet, it has helped to depress the market. Georgia will continue to move a fair volume of melons until the middle of August but there is little hope for any material improvement in prices.

"The Georgia peach movement reached its peak on July 29 with 780 cars shipped that day. The price had dropped to 45¢-50¢ per bushel or crate, only slightly above packing and handling charges, and it was felt that the haulings would decrease very rapidly. The market showed some firmness by Saturda (Aug. 1), however, and many growers, who had practically abandoned their orchards, began picking again, resulting in over 400 cars moving the following Monday instead of around 300, the number generally predicted. Much of the fruit is too ripe to carry well and may result in severe losses. It is now estimated that Georgia will ship 1,500 cars, or possibly 1,800, this week, but the movement next week ought not exceed 500 cars. The Macon section will be practically through this week. Peaches are now moving from the extreme northeastern section of the State."

7b. MOVEMENT OF EASTERN SHORE CANTALOUPES ACTIVE

V. H. Nicholson sent the following letter from Pocomoke City, Md., on August 4:-

"The weather on the Eastern Shore has been quite hot and dry for the last few days, and practically all crops are needing rain. Shippers around Salisbury say that the cantaloupe crop must have rain within a few days or the season in that vicinity will not last much longer. The crop has already been injured by the dry weather. Growers in the Hurlock and Seaford sections are expecting lighter production than was at first indicated, mainly because of the dry weather.

"However, the movement of cantaloupes has been much heavier than during the same period in 1930. To date, the truck movement totals 155,602 crates, or over twice the 71,387 crates shipped to the corresponding time in 1930. Carlot shipments from Maryland already total 138 and those from Delaware total 88 cars, or considerably more than at this time last season.

"Prices held fairly well until Saturday of last week. Under the heavy shipments of the last few days, the f.o.b. price Monday declined to mostly $1.25-$1.50 for the 14 and 15-inch-head crates of Pink Meats. The same sized crates of Salmon Tints have been selling at a discount of about 25¢. Prices are even lower today(Tuesday). Until today, quality of the offerings has been fairly good, but several lots of rather ordinary stock were offered at the Salisbury auction block today.

"Shipments have been given a fair distribution. Several cars have been billed to Pittsburgh, and a few to the Middle West. However, the truck movement to Philadelphia and New York has been quite heavy, and most of the smaller nearby markets have been the destinations of several truckloads."

8b. NOTES ON THE NORTHWESTERN F.O.B. MARKETS

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, sent the following brief report under date of July 29:-

"With green peas moving from Colorado shipping districts at the rate of 15 to 20 cars daily, the Puget Sound f.o.b. market approached the end of July in a highly unsettled condition, with prices declining. Instead of an f.o.b. cash-track market within a range of $3-$3.25 per hamper which prevailed earlier in the month, shippers were closing a few sales at $1.65-$1.75. Quality of late shipments is only ordinary and distribution is becoming more and more restricted, with mixed cars going forward freely.

"Iceberg lettuce shipments from western Washington are gradually decreasing and a firm market prevails for available supplies. The terminal market conditions for the ensuing month or two will have an important bearing upon the carlot movement for the balance of the season. An active demand will afford growers of a second crop an opportunity to ship many cars later in the month. Most of the present carlots are moving from a limited area about 60 miles north and east of Seattle. The f.o.b. cash-track market for best-quality Iceberg has remained within a range of $2.25-$2.75 per crate for the current week."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.*	May 21	June 17*
			Potatoes*	June 12	July 31*
			Cukes*	July 2	July 24*
			Cants.	July 28	Aug. 15
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833 875	R.M. Peterson	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 8
			W-melons	July 20	Aug. 14
CANDOR, N.C.** A.F.G. Bldg.	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 20	Aug. 12
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
WALLA WALLA, WASH.	939	J. D. Hamilton	Prunes	Aug. 10	Aug. 29
The following stations probably will open on date indicated:					
ROCKY FORD, COLO.	821	R. G. Risser	Cants.	Aug. 20	Sept. 15
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P.O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 24	Sept. 19
			Peaches	Sept. 1	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sept. 1	Oct. 24
			Onions	Sept. 8	Oct. 24

** State cooperating.

* Reports discontinued.

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
R. G. Risser in Los Angeles
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. L. Sutton in Washington
R. E. Keller on leave in Michigan

W. G. Thompson in Philadelphia
J. B. Owens in Pittsburgh
A. M. McDowell in Cleveland
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Maine

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. MATERIAL SENT TO INSPECTORS

During the past week, copies of the short grade forms for Apples have been sent to all inspectors. If anyone was overlooked, he should request a copy promptly from Washington.

With this D.L., each inspector will receive a copy of the revised U.S. Standards for Bunched Shallots. A booklet entitled "Washington (State) Standards for Grading, Packing, Certification and Packages of Apples, Pears, Prunes, Cantaloupes, Grapes and Peaches, 1931," is enclosed for all inspectors except those on the Pacific Coast.

The next two items have been taken from California Inspectors' Notes, July 24:-

2c. SEBASTOPOL APPLE INSPECTIONS HEAVY

The apple movement from the Sebastopol section has been going in full swing and reached its peak this week. The apple crop is considerably lighter than last year, as well as earlier in maturing. Some difficulty has been encountered in making grade this year, sunburn and worms being the principal defects.

3c. LONG HOT SPELL DAMAGES GRAPES

The unusually hot weather this summer has considerably damaged grapes throughout the State. The Tokays are especially hard hit. In the Lodi section it is reported that this year's shipments will probably be less than half of last year's shipments. In the Florin section the damage from the heat is even greater and probably only one-fourth of the Tokay crop is worth shipping. The juice grapes in these sections are not so badly damaged. It is reported that juice grapes in the north coast sections are also hard hit.

4c. EXPORT FORM CERTIFICATES

Last year the Export Form Certificate was issued on lots of eastern apples only when no more than the tolerance provided in the grades for worm damage was found and when the lot was free from conspicuous spray residue. This year, U.S. Grade No. 1 limits the serious defects to 5% and makes the tolerance for worm holes for an Export Form 5% instead of 10% which was provided in the U.S. Grade No. 1 last year.

5c. SEND CERTIFICATE COPIES TO WASHINGTON PROMPTLY

Some offices are following the plan of holding certificates for several days before sending copies to Washington. It is highly important that our Washington copies be placed in the files promptly and copies should be sent here the same day as the originals are mailed. The certificates should be arranged in serial order and all folded together before they are sent in. Do not fold each certificate separately. Such practice simply causes unnecessary work at both ends of the line.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	Apr. 1	Nov. 1
GEORGIA:	O. G. Strauss, 413 First Natl. Bank, Macon, Ga.	Peaches	May 25	Aug. 10
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
KANSAS:	V. V. Westgate, c/o State Board of Agr., Topeka, Kans.	Potatoes	July 6	Aug. 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Parker Hotel, Weatherford, Texas	W-melons Cantaloupes	July 23 July 23	Aug. 8 Aug. 8
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Harriman, Tenn.	Peaches	Aug. 3	Aug. 15
OKLAHOMA:	G. W. Winfrey, c/o State Mkt. Commission, Oklahoma City, Okla.	W-Melons	Aug. 6	Aug. 20

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Missouri potatoes..... F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office
Iowa onions..... R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Kentucky products..... T. C. Curry, Louisville office
Massachusetts onions..... O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Ohio products..... M. W. Baker, Columbus office
Arkansas peaches..... Federal-State Inspection, Clarksville, Ark.
Arkansas watermelons..... Federal-State Inspection, Hope, Ark.

6c. ADDITION FOR LIST OF PAST DUE ACCOUNTS

The following name should be added to list of Past Due Accounts:

John Morris, Jr. Harlingen, Texas $4.00

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

ATTACHED TO THIS D.L. are the annual tables of inspections in terminal markets, with comparative figures for preceding years.

OFFICE NOTES:

R. R. Pailthorp is on the program of the International Apple Association convention, at West Baden Springs, Ind., next week for an address on "Changes in the U.S. Grades for Apples." He expects to leave Washington on Monday and will be absent only a few days.

R. L. Spangler, of the Standardization Project, will leave Washington the last of this week and travel to California, for the purpose of carrying on investigations in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture and the Canners League of California to ascertain whether the U.S. grades for cannery tomatoes are suitable for handling tomatoes grown under California conditions. He probably will stop also at Denver and Salt Lake City to confer with E. F. McKune and L. S. Fenn, respectively, regarding the cannery tomato grading work in those States. Mr. Spangler may not return to Washington before the end of September.

Wm. E. Lewis, another member of Mr. Pailthorp's staff, will start on Sunday for a trip which probably will cover points in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Maine. He will make investigations looking toward the promulgation of U.S. standards for sweet corn for market. He will be in the field for several weeks.

Robert Bier, of the Inspection Service, and Wm. E. Leigh, of the Standardization Project, left Washington on Wednesday for Easton, Md., where they are conducting a training-class of licensed inspectors to handle the grading of the local crop of cannery tomatoes. Next Monday, Mr. Bier will proceed to Virginia for a similar purpose.

J. Wm. Park, who is in the field making investigations for the revision of the bulletin on fruit and produce auctions, was in St. Louis on Tuesday and Wednesday, in Cincinnati on Thursday, and is in Pittsburgh today and Saturday. He probably will be back at his desk by Monday.

R. G. Hill, of Mr. Pailthorp's project, left Washington on Wednesday for Atlanta, Ga., and points in Alabama and other southern States, to obtain data on farmers' grade Runner peanuts, with a view to formulating U.S. grades for them. This investigational trip may require a couple of weeks' time.

B. C. Boree, in charge of the Market News Service, spent yesterday in Philadelphia, conferring with local representatives of the service.

Wendell Calhoun was in the Chicago office of the Market News Service last Friday and Saturday and in the Minneapolis office on Monday and Tuesday of this week. From Wednesday until tomorrow night he is on leave at Muscatine, Iowa. He expects to reach the Kansas City office on Monday morning and will return to Washington by the 14th.

Congratulations are extended to Martin Storey, of Mr. Carey's project in Washington, on his marriage last Saturday to Miss Charlotte Grimm. The happy event occurred in Maryland.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):-

Brice Edwards, who had been working in the New York City market area in connection with the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act, returned to Washington on Wednesday of last week and left shortly for the Candor, N.C., peach district, where he is continuing his investigations of the observance of the P.A.C. Act.

Mrs. Cecile Linn, secretary to Mr. Pailthorp in Washington, is on vacation at her former home in Lynn, Mass., from August 5 until near the end of the month.

Paul M. Williams was in Baltimore yesterday in connection with the work on the grading of canned fruits and vegetables.

J. D. Hamilton, of the Portland market-news office, has completed his period of annual leave and has now gone to Walla Walla, Wash., where he opens the market reporting service on fresh prunes next Monday. B. E. Surry is in temporary charge of the news work in the Portland office.

O. G. Strauss, who has been supervising the shipping-point inspection work on Georgia peaches, expects to leave Macon by next Tuesday, August 11, and return to his headquarters at Orlando, Florida.

M. A. Russell, Associate Regional Supervisor in the Chicago office of the Inspection Service, was on leave all of this week, and will go on Monday to southern Illinois, where he will supervise the shipping-point inspections of peaches for a few weeks.

G. H. Irish, of the New York City inspection staff, is on annual leave from August 3 to 20.

H. H. Henderson, of the Norfolk inspection office, has been assisting with inspection work in the New York market for the past few weeks and probably will remain there until September.

Miss Elizabeth L. Kirk, of the Pittsburgh market-news office, was married on July 18 to James F. Ford, of Pittsburgh. Best wishes are extended to the bride and groom.

F. S. Kinsey has completed his period of annual leave in the vicinity of Los Angeles, Calif., and has now reported for duty in the Atlanta office, where he will substitute for J. H. Hoover, while the latter is on vacation.

E. E. Conklin, Jr., of the Chicago inspection office, is spending a few days of this week at Harriman, Tenn., where W. J. Bertush is supervising the shipping-point inspection work on peaches.

Recently an arrangement was made with the State of New Jersey by which Howard Hotchkiss has taken over the market-news work in Newark. Mr. Hotchkiss is strictly a State employee and will handle the railroad reports and similar work formerly handled by H. L. Harrington, the local inspector.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS BY PRODUCTS, 1930 - 1931

FRUITS	
Apples	7058
Apricots	21
Avocados	6
Bananas	68
Crabapples	1
Cranberries	42
Cherries	1186
Currants	1
Figs	99
Grapes	1285
Grapefruit	1749
Lemons	137
Limes	12
Mandarins	3
Nectarines	7
Oranges	964
Peaches	1024
Pears	2306
Pineapples	72
Plums	99
Prunes	162
Satsumas	1
Strawberries	2352
Other Berries	196
Tangerines	111
Mixed Citrus	41
Mixed Fruit	331
Mixed Fruit & Vegetables	277
Total	19611

NUTS	
Almonds	1
Chestnuts	9
Cocoanuts	5
Peanuts	1329
Pecans	2
Walnuts	3
Total	1349

MISCELLANEOUS	
Bulbs	18
Cabbage Plants	6
Christmas Trees	7
Cut Ferns	1
Evergreens	10
Holly	1
Honey	26
Laurel Roping	1
Lily of Valley (flowers)	3
Olives	1
Total	74

VEGETABLES	
Anise	11
Artichokes	26
Asparagus	241
Beans	435
Beets	50
Broccoli	36
Brussels Sprouts	1
Cabbage	698
Cantaloupes	383
Carrots	197
Casabas	1
Cauliflower	273
Celery	878
Celery Roots	1
Chicory	25
Collards	1
Corn	59
Cucumbers	224
Eggplant	20
Endive	7
Escarole	26
Garlic	64
Greens	12
Honey Balls	5
Honey Dews	134
Horseradish	6
Kale	5
Lettuce	863
Mushrooms	1
Okra	5
Onions	1743
Onion Plants	6
Onion Sets	8
Parsley	26
Peas	263
Peppers	110
Persian Melons	5
Potatoes	6944
Radishes	34
Rhubarb	16
Romaine	1
Rutabagas	88
Shallots	10
Spinach	311
Squash	10
Sweet Potatoes	361
Tomatoes	1648
Turnips	140
Watermelons	695
Mixed Melons	16
Mixed Vegetables	124
Total	17247
GRAND TOTAL	38281*

* exclusive of the 21562 inspections made in Cleveland under cooperative agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal.

TOTAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTIONS IN RECEIVING MARKETS, 1930 - 1931

Station	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
Atlanta#	81	42	84	52	76	87	92	43	39	64	42	55	757
Baltimore	60	15	22	32	49	73	84	57	52	57	93	65	659
Birmingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4	15	31
Boston	224	97	188	169	227	153	162	121	246	302	395	497	2781
Buffalo	32	19	12	19	15	19	34	23	37	26	37	32	305
Charleston	-	-	-	-	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Chicago	90	179	151	354	330	415	300	372	346	240	192	205	3174
Cincinnati	54	36	73	91	65	59	72	52	57	55	41	66	721
Cleveland	2000	1640	1651	2014	1813	1566	1502	1566	1742	1802	2195	2482	21973*
Columbus	31	37	35	42	25	34	23	12	26	29	28	41	363
Dallas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	19	8	49
Denver #	27	28	25	32	29	41	12	17	34	36	49	48	378
Des Moines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	17	24	55
Detroit	98	127	86	103	108	65	90	59	78	89	114	81	1098
Fort Worth	5	20	27	30	33	22	15	15	19	8	5	6	205
Harrisburg#	5	6	4	1	6	3	0	5	4	4	8	23	69
Houston	-	20	36	64	35	44	18	19	19	20	-	-	275
Indianapolis	25	17	30	30	28	19	22	17	16	24	28	29	285
Jacksonville#	-	-	18	65	36	72	129	73	91	109	36	53	682
Kansas City	49	43	55	75	66	81	93	66	69	73	88	98	856
Los Angeles#	4	3	3	28	10	21	19	16	15	8	11	7	145
Louisville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	24	14	44
Memphis	47	34	27	35	44	28	40	30	29	41	39	30	424
Milwaukee	226	63	83	66	87	47	66	70	59	134	211	175	1287
Minneapolis	21	11	18	30	23	22	26	29	48	117	44	39	428
Newark	95	63	67	84	102	56	94	95	63	77	93	67	956
New Haven	48	26	28	62	50	44	43	41	44	59	81	96	622
New Orleans	155	141	191	197	164	164	113	109	100	107	117	134	1692
New York	925	558	1052	1670	786	695	670	834	964	1087	1195	898	11334
Norfolk#	-	-	15	22	27	23	23	19	22	9	8	14	182
Omaha	31	26	25	22	18	37	38	61	73	58	114	51	554
Philadelphia	179	149	203	276	302	127	136	132	176	254	216	139	2289
Pittsburgh	214	177	214	177	118	68	78	75	83	86	104	126	1520
Portland #	5	6	8	6	14	5	18	6	18	10	7	10	113
Providence	4	5	9	30	29	30	21	26	27	29	44	26	280
Rochester	15	11	5	5	8	18	16	4	12	21	14	18	147
Sacramento#	0	1	0	0	0	1	6	4	0	0	0	0	12
St. Louis	127	95	107	102	75	55	81	65	92	169	257	117	1342
Salt Lake City#	4	1	1	2	4	2	1	2	1	10	4	2	34
San Diego	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
San Francisco#	0	0	3	4	18	5	7	10	11	12	13	7	90
Seattle	2	1	0	1	0	1	6	2	2	3	7	5	30
Springfield	46	20	18	43	126	52	37	35	17	22	40	43	499
Toledo	5	2	10	24	10	7	19	24	23	18	11	8	161
Trenton#	3	0	3	4	4	4	1	0	1	0	3	0	23
Tulsa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	5	14	32
Washington#	21	13	47	68	68	36	55	106	85	53	47	44	643
Wilkes-Barre#	27	9	13	8	15	11	14	14	10	26	41	33	221
TOTAL	4985	3741	4648	6141	5045	4328	4278	4326	4951	5414	6141	5945	59843

- No inspector located at stations so marked during the months thus indicated.

In offices so marked, inspector devotes only part time to inspection work.

* Includes 21562 inspections made under cooperative agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal and 411 straight Federal inspections.

Market Reinspections

Appeal inspections requested - 51; original report sustained -39; reversed -12

COMPARISON OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTIONS IN TERMINAL MARKETS FOR FIVE YEARS

MARKET	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
Atlanta	857	828	726	629	757
Baltimore	469	407	576	503	659
Birmingham	-	-	-	-	31
Boston	2056	2329	2431	3089	2781
Boise	-	-	-	2	-
Buffalo	843	837	806	309	305
Charleston	-	-	2	-	17
Charlotte	3	-	-	-	-
Chicago	3959	4072	5213	2435	3174
Cincinnati	533	629	574	640	721
Cleveland	1198	1225	1366	10209	21973
Columbus	383	369	413	276	363
Dallas	-	-	-	-	49
Denver	203	266	316	320	378
Des Moines	-	-	-	-	55
Detroit	2056	1233	942	1080	1098
Fort Worth	287	276	238	232	205
Harrisburg	47	48	53	31	69
Houston	208	201	251	248	275
Indianapolis	383	334	284	282	285
Jacksonville	273	343	377	313	682
Kansas City	866	829	964	830	856
Los Angeles	153	147	119	129	145
Louisville	-	-	33	9	44
Memphis	529	590	671	517	424
Milwaukee	710	820	980	1037	1287
Minneapolis	469	392	333	217	428
Newark	103	361	595	783	956
New Haven	642	549	604	625	622
New Orleans	1332	1696	2026	2217	1692
New York	7774	6632	8139	8574	11334
Norfolk	234	201	158	140	182
Omaha	321	477	454	416	554
Philadelphia	1107	1292	2110	2715	2289
Pittsburgh	2005	2090	2027	2145	1520
Portland	250	162	170	129	113
Providence	-	-	145	342	280
Rochester	-	-	-	40	147
Sacramento	10	8	1	6	12
St. Louis	1353	1245	1203	1161	1342
Salt Lake City	41	35	24	38	34
San Diego	9	10	5	5	6
San Francisco	69	78	87	101	90
Seattle	-	-	-	21	30
Springfield	18	441	437	488	499
Toledo	154	188	791	363	161
Trenton	25	11	28	94	23
Tulsa	-	-	-	-	32
Washington	434	347	599	687	643
Wichita	141	160	2	-	-
Wilkes-Barre	287	272	269	243	221
TOTAL	32794	32430	37632	44740	59843

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 33 August 14, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. PREPARATION OF EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Notwithstanding the requests made in the past that the "Itemized Statement of Travel and Other Expenses" at the top of the expense account form be filled in, many of the expense accounts received in Washington are not complete in this respect.

It is also necessary that the period shown on the itinerary report be the same as that shown on the face of the voucher, as the itinerary report is intended to show the location of an employee during the full period covered by the account and does not refer only to such time as he may have been actually traveling. Please bear these requirements in mind when preparing expense accounts in the future.

2a. BASKET MANUFACTURERS IN OHIO FINED FOR ILLEGAL CONTAINERS

The Wm. E. Asplin Basket Co. at Cleveland, Ohio, and the Rocky River Basket Co. at Rocky River, Ohio, have recently pleaded guilty to a violation of the U. S. Standard Container Act of 1928. Each company was fined the sum of $10 and costs by Judge S. H. West. Decrees of condemnation and forfeiture were also filed July 28 by the United States, providing for the destruction of the illegal baskets seized in these cases, which numbered approximately 20 dozen and 70 dozen respectively.

The two companies were charged with the manufacture and sale of two-quart diamond-weave baskets, which are illegal under the Standard Container Act of 1928.

3a. APPLE EXPORT SEASON OF 1930-1931 SUMMARIZED

The Foreign Agricultural Service Division on August 5 published a special report, designated as F. S.: A-375, and entitled "Summary of the Apple Export Season, 1930-31." This report was prepared by F. A. Motz, Fruit Specialist of this Bureau in Europe, whose headquarters are in London. It contains 30 pages of valuable material. Copies can be obtained from the Washington office.

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DELAY IN MAILING THE DIVISION LETTER

It is possible that, in the future, some delay may occur in the mailing and distribution of the weekly Division Letter. Offices outside of Washington should wait a day or two longer than usual, before complaining about non-receipt of the D.L.

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MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

"With activities in the Puget Sound Iceberg-lettuce and green-pea fields drifting along at low ebb, early fall fruits and vegetables growing in the irrigated valleys are receiving greater attention. Pear harvesting is general in the Rogue River Valley of Oregon and throughout the Yakima Valley, and Wenatchee may soon join the group. The demand for fresh fruit is discouragingly slow, with a resulting heavy movement into cold storages for later shipment and into canneries. The bright feature of the situation is the interest manifest by smaller mid-western markets in obtaining carlot supplies; an f.o.b. cash price of $1.15 per box for Extra Fancy Bartletts brings this fruit within the reach of a portion of the rural population. Canneries are paying on the basis of $20 per ton for No. 1 grade.

"The Yakima Valley peach crop, from present indications, promises to be a light one of unusually good quality. Various early varieties are now being offered in nearby markets, but the main crop of Elbertas will not begin its movement until mid-August and early September.

"The Milton-Freewater district prune harvest is expected to start during the second week of August.

"Although most northwestern tomato shipments continue to originate in the vicinity of Walla Walla, various other sections have stock to offer and locally-grown tomatoes are appearing in Portland and Seattle. The onion movement continues at the rate of 10 to 20 cars daily from Washington shipping districts, in spite of relatively poor quality available for distribution. The cantaloupe season in Yakima is due for an early end, the peak movement for this season having already occurred." (T. R. Hall, Seattle, August 5)

2b. LITTLE INTEREST SHOWN IN TEXAS WATERMELONS

"Although it is reported that there are plenty of good watermelons left in Texas, shipments during the last two weeks have been unusually light for this season of the year. Prices have been so low that growers have found little interest in the deal, and are leaving the melons in the fields or peddling them to near-by town and cities. The prevailing price to growers in the Weatherford and Alvord sections has been around 20¢ per 100 pounds on the basis of 30 pounds average weight melons. Despite ideal weather for the consumption of watermelons, there is no demand.

"The Rush Springs (Oklahoma) deal is just beginning, one car having been shipped Friday. Reports indicate that the crop there will be very light, due mostly to aphis damage. The present Oklahoma movement is largely from the section adjacent to Weleetka, where some 400 or 500 cars may be shipped under favorable market conditions." (W. D. Googe, Fort Worth, August 9)

POTATO CROP PROSPECTS were reduced during July by high temperatures, drought conditions and shortage of irrigation water in many producing sections. The total crop is now forecast at 371,000,000 bushels, compared with about 343,000,000 in 1930 and an unrevised five-year average of 381,000,000 bushels. Maine expects a very heavy crop of almost 49,000,000 bushels.

3b. GROWING CONDITIONS IMPROVED IN MINNESOTA

"This week has started out cloudy and cool;- just the kind of weather which has been needed all over the State of Minnesota to save the crops from being burnt up. Last week there was considerable rain in most parts of the State, so that growing conditions for late potatoes, late tomatoes, onions and cabbage are at present good.

"Local dealers, who are active shippers of Minnesota and North Dakota potatoes in season, believe that carlot movement from Minnesota will start in a small way during the last week of August. Most fields which have been sampled recently show that the potatoes have a light set, with much second-growth, scab and growth cracks. Except for a few Triumphs, which came from a prize grower's field, there have been no potatoes brought in to the local houses yet which show No. 1 size. These Triumphs happen to be from a field which has always taken a prize at the State Fair for high quality and high yield; so they may be regarded as an exception. The grower expects to start digging on September 10, and he may yet be among the first to cash-in on this year's crop.

"Local tomatoes have suffered considerably from recent dry weather, and the market was active this morning with prices considerably higher on Oregon and Washington receipts. The present cool weather indicates liberal truck receipts within 10 days or two weeks.

"Homegrown raspberries are cleaned up and receipts from Washington have dropped off. This week, berry markets are being supplied almost entirely by Washington blackberries and Wisconsin blueberries. Both of these commodities are cheap; so they are being featured by grocers as a leader, often at prices much in line with wholesale cost." (L. C. Tate, Minneapolis, August 10)

4b. EASTERN SHORE CANTALOUPES ABOUT FINISHED

"The cantaloupe season around Salisbury, Md., is about finished, and shipments from that section will be light after Wednesday or Thursday of this week. The crop in the Hurlock district is reported to be lighter than last season, and the quality is only fair. Shipments from the Seaford, Delaware, section will probably be rather light for the remainder of the season.

"Both truck and carlot movement has been heavier than last season. Carlot shipments have exceeded last year's output to this time by at least 50%. Truck movement from the Eastern Shore totals 306,153 crates or nearly twice the 164,388 crates shipped to this date last season.

"Quality has not been as good as last season, and prices have been lower. During the last few days, most Pink Meats packed in 14 and 15-inch head crates have been selling in the general range of 75¢-$1 and flats have been selling at 40¢-60¢. Growers have obtained better yields this season, but I doubt very much if the crop has been profitable.

"Much-needed rain fell Tuesday night (August 4), and there have been frequent rains since that time. While the moisture has benefited the cantaloupe crop to a certain extent, the rains came at the proper time to benefit the sweet-potato crop materially. A few l.c.l. lots of sweet potatoes have already been shipped, but the carlot movement will be rather light until after August 20." (V. H. Nicholson, Pocomoke City, August 11)

GRAPE CROP PROSPECTS were reduced last month and the production of this fruit is now forecast at 1,783,683 tons, or 72% of the 1930 crop and 74% of the average production of the past five years.

5b. RECENT CROP NEWS FROM COLORADO

"Lettuce shipments from Colorado have increased slowly the past week, reaching peaks of 14 cars on August 5 and 7. The total to date is slightly above that of last year, with 282 cars out. Quality in the San Luis Valley is generally fair to ordinary with occasional cars of good quality. The Moffat section on the Western Slope has been the cause of the increased movement this week. Prices advanced slightly during the week, ranging $2.75-$3.25.

"The movement of green peas has been liberal the past week. The total movement to date is 235 cars, compared with 90 at this time last year. The final movement in 1930 was 463 cars, but, with an increase of approximately 1,000 acres, the shipments will undoubtedly be larger than last season. Prices dropped almost daily throughout the week. Shipments are expected to decrease by the middle of next week. Cooler weather and local showers have been prevalent over the Rocky Mountain region the past few days.

"A truck load of 109 flats of Rocky Ford cantaloupes arrived on the Denver market this morning and brought about $1.25 off the truck. The netting was good, but the melons showed slightly green for the Denver market which prefers a choice melon. Occasional cars of early stock will move next week, with the main harvest starting between the 17th and 20th of August. A small consignment of Colorado peaches sold on the Denver market this week at 75¢ per box. These were Carmans and Hale's Early.

"Colorado potato shipments this season to date have been all from the Western Slope. The deficiency in movement this season is in the early section around Gilcrest and La Salle in northern Colorado, which has not shipped a single car to date, compared to 178 last season at this time. Potato prices have been steady at shipping points and Denver this week. The Gilcrest-La Salle movement is expected to start early next week." (Bryce Morris, Denver, Aug. 8)

6b. WALLA WALLA PRUNE SEASON OPENING

J. D. Hamilton wired as follows from Walla Walla, Washington, on August 11:-

"Original estimate of 800 cars prunes in Walla Walla- Milton district now believed to be reduced to 700 or 750 cars. Probably 350 cars in entire Yakima Valley crop. Practically no shipments from Walla Walla until August 14, account delayed maturity. Good eastern inquiry. About 100 cars of preseason sales at 40¢ for suitcases, 45¢ for faced lugs, and 75¢ for the four-basket crates."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Station	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will Close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
WALLA WALLA, WASH.	939	J. D. Hamilton	Prunes	Aug. 14	Aug. 29
ROCK FORD, COLO.	821	R. G. Risser	Cants.	Aug. 20	Sept. 15
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P. O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 24	Sept. 19
			Peaches	Sept. 1	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sept. 1	Oct. 24
			Onions	Sept. 8	Oct. 24
			Potatoes	Oct. 7	Oct. 24
The following stations closed on dates indicated:					
POCOMOKE CITY, MD.** Peninsula Bldg.	878	V. H. Nicholson	Stbr.	May 21	June 17
			Potatoes	June 12	July 31
			Cukes	July 2	July 24
			Cants.	July 28	Aug. 15
MACON, GA.** 415 Ga. Casualty Bldg.	833	R. M. Peterson	Peaches	June 8	Aug. 8
	875		W-Melons	July 20	Aug. 12
CANDOR, N. C.** A.F.G. Bldg.	935	H. F. Willson	Peaches	July 20	Aug. 12

** State cooperating.

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. L. Sutton on leave
R. M. Peterson in Baltimore
H. F. Willson in Cincinnati
V. H. Nicholson on leave
J. B. Owens in Pittsburgh
A. M. McDowell in Cleveland
W. D. Googe in Kansas City, 8/20
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Maine

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. BACTERIAL SPOT OF PEACHES

It appears that shipping-point Supervisors are not uniform in designating the disease of peaches known as Bacterial Spot. Some refer to this disease as Bacteriosis and others call it Shot Hole, neither of which is proper. The disease Handbook and the Inspectors' Handbook call this disease Bacterial Spot, which is the name recognized by the Bureau of Plant Industry and is the proper term to use on inspection certificates and in correspondence.

2c. PROPER FORM OF GRADE STATEMENTS

It appears that some inspectors are using the same form of grade statement which was in use prior to January 1. Memorandum No. 72 gives specific instructions as to the proper form of grade statements. When the grade does not provide for handling decay (which develops after the product is packed) as a condition factor, the proper grade statement would be: "Stock now fails to grade U. S. No. 1 only on account of decay." The use of the additional statement about meeting quality requirements of the grade has been discontinued. Each inspector should carefully note instructions given in Memorandum No. 72.

3c. RIPE AND FIRM PEACHES ARE UP TO GRADE

U. S. No. 1 peaches must be "firm," which means not soft or overripe. Peaches which are ripe and firm meet the grade requirements as to maturity. Soft peaches may be scored against the grade, but ripe and firm peaches should never be scored as grade defects.

4c. INSPECTIONS OF INDIANA PEACHES AND ONIONS

The following letter of August 8 came from J. E. Dickerson, at the Indianapolis office:-

"We will start the peach inspection work in Indiana about August 12. We are also placing three inspectors at Henderson, Kentucky. However, inspection on these cars will carry Indiana car cards, and on all peach inspections the city inspectors should wire me at the County Agent's Office, Vincennes, Indiana, for the shipping-point reports. Indiana has by far the largest peach crop ever produced in this State. Present indications are for a crop of excellent quality, with sizes as large as, or possibly larger than, usual.

"We will also start the onion inspection work in northern Indiana in a small way about August 15. As you know, the Indiana onion crop has been cut around 40%, so that the movement will probably be relatively light until about September 1. However, we anticipate a heavier movement than usual early in the fall, due to the poor price received at the end of the season last year. Because of cut-worms and wind-damage last spring, we anticipated large-sized onions. However, the exceptionally hot weather over the entire area and thrip damage in several sections has cut the size considerably, so that it looks as if a large percentage of the crop will be sold over 1¼-inch screen. However, aside from size, we expect good-quality stock.

"For reports on onions, inspectors should wire the Federal-State Inspection Service at Warsaw, Indiana.

"During the past week we have trained 60 inspectors for the cannery tomato inspection work. The class was held in southern Indiana, where we could obtain plenty of tomatoes for training purposes. Mr. Curry gave us an excellent talk on Tuesday, and Thursday we had over 100 canners, or their representatives, as visitors to see the prospective inspectors in action.

"Tomato vines are in excellent condition at the present time throughout the State. However, we badly need rain in many sections and, if it is not received within the next week or ten days, tomatoes will be small. Several canners in southern Indiana will start operations next week, but as a whole the deal will not start until late in August, due to the fact that the first bloom 'blasted' during the hot weather."

5c. JULY INSPECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Including 230 shipside inspections made at San Francisco and Los Angeles, about 3,900 inspections were made at shipping points in California during the month of July. The principal districts were as follows: Sebastopol 1,392; Turlock 510; Dinuba 239; Los Angeles 224; Fresno 223; Sacramento 140; San Jose 132; with 265 inspections at San Francisco, including 208 shipside. The Bakersfield district reported 192 inspections.

6c. SEBASTOPOL APPLE SHIPMENTS ABOUT FINISHED

Shipments of apples from the Sebastopol district are clearing up fast and many shippers will be entirely finished this week. A total of around 1,500 cars of apples will have been shipped by the end of the season. Practically all shipments have been certified and the majority have been for export. (California Inspectors' notes, August 7)

7c. FRUIT SHIPPER FINED FOR ALTERING INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

Alteration by a shipper of a certificate of the Food Products Inspection Service, covering a shipment of apples, has resulted in that individual's being prosecuted and fined. It was found that the percentage of decay on the certificate had been changed in such a way as to make the certificate indicate that the lot of apples in question complied with export condition requirements of the apple grades, while, as a matter of fact, they were originally certified as containing too much decay to comply with these requirements. The shipper also added a statement to the certificate to the effect that the apples did meet the export condition requirements.

When the facts were obtained in this case, it was presented to the United States Attorney who secured an indictment of the shipper for violation of the Federal Penal Code, which forbids the alteration of such documents. The offender pleaded guilty and was fined $100.

8c. THE FOLLOWING NAMES SHOULD BE ADDED to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Trulyn Shippers, Inc.	Weslaco, Texas	$1.00
Rio Grande Produce Co.	Monte Vista, Colo.	$4.00
Kistner Florida Co.	Zolfo Springs, Fla.	$18.23
C. V. Rohrbacher Co.	Los Angeles, Calif.	$8.00

- R. C. BUTNER, Supervisor of Inspection.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg. San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
KANSAS:	V. V. Westgate, c/o State Board of Agr., Topeka, Kans.	Potatoes	July 6	Aug. 19
TENNESSEE:	W. J. Bertush, Harriman, Tenn.	Peaches	Aug. 3	Aug. 18
OKLAHOMA:	G. W. Winfrey, c/o State Mkt.Commission, Oklahoma City, Okla.	W-melons	Aug. 6	Aug. 20
ILLINOIS:	M. A. Russell, Anna Hotel, Anna, Ill.	Peaches	Aug. 13	Sept. 3
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg. Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Sept. 20
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House, Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 1030 State Office Bldg., Richmond, Va.	Peaches	Aug. 17	Sept. 5
INDIANA:	J. E. Dickerson, County Agent's Office, Vincennes, Ind.	Peaches	Aug. 12	Sept. 1

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Missouri potatoes.....F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office
Iowa onions.....R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Kentucky products.....T. C. Curry, Louisville office
Massachusetts onions.....O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Ohio products.....M. W. Baker, Columbus office
Arkansas peaches.....Federal-State Inspection, Clarksville, Ark.
Arkansas watermelons.....Federal-State Inspection, Hope, Ark.
Indiana onions.....Federal-State Inspection Service, Warsaw, Ind.

OFFICE NOTES:

Elmer P. Bostwick, of Tennessee, has been appointed as an Associate Marketing Specialist (Canned Fruits and Vegetables), effective August 15. He obtained the Ph. C. degree from the University of Ohio, and attended the Army Medical School and the George Washington University in Washington, D. C. Mr. Bostwick was employed by the National Canners Association, Washington, from 1920 to 1922; by Penick & Ford, New Orleans, from 1922 to 1925; by the Morgan Packing Co. in Indiana during 1925 and 1926, and by Stokely Bros. & Company, Newport, Tenn., from 1926 to 1931.

James C. Bigger, of Washington, has been appointed as an Assistant Marketing Specialist (Canned Fruits and Vegetables), effective August 15. He has had a high school education and one year of college work. Mr. Bigger served in the United States Army during the World War. From 1919 to 1926 he was employed by Mason Ehrman & Co., Portland, Oregon, as a branch house manager, buying and selling groceries and canned goods. From 1926 to 1928, he did similar work for Wadham & Co., at Portland, and since 1928 has been employed by different firms engaged in these lines of work.

Both Mr. Bostwick and Mr. Bigger, whose appointments are mentioned above, will report in Washington for a period of training in the inspection and grading of canned fruits and vegetables. Later it is expected that one of these men will be placed in charge of an eastern branch office of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Project and the other probably in charge of the Chicago branch office of that Project.

Miss Lucy Watt, of the market-news staff in Washington, expects to go to Pittsburgh by airplane this Saturday morning, en route to her home in Greensburg, Pa., where she will be on leave for the next three weeks.

Congratulations are extended to Kenneth Bolles, of the Market News Project in Washington, on his marriage last Wednesday to Miss Vivian Hutchinson. On Tuesday, his friends in the Washington office presented him with a very attractive bridge lamp as a wedding gift.

Robert Bier spent several days this week at Reedville, Va., training a class of inspectors for handling the inspection of cannery tomatoes at points in the eastern part of Virginia. He returned to Easton, Md., the latter part of this week, and continued this training work in the Maryland area.

Brice Edwards, who is doing field work in connection with the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act, has gone from North Carolina to various points in Indiana and will later visit points in Illinois and in the Benton Harbor section of Michigan.

W. H. Steinbauer, of the Regulatory Branch in Washington, was on annual leave at Saginaw, Mich., and is now spending the last few days of this week at Detroit, investigating cases under the P.A.C. Act.

Edward F. Nynatt, an attorney, has been appointed to a position in the Solicitor's Office, effective August 1. He will devote his time to legal work in connection with the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):-

J. W. Dykes, of the Regulatory Branch, has gone to Philadelphia, New York and points in New Jersey, to make investigations under the P.A.C. Act.

J. G. Cross, in charge of transportation contacts, expects to leave Washington early next week and travel to points in the Middle West and the East, conferring with railroad officials regarding shipment and unload reports. He may be absent about two weeks.

H. T. Longino, Supervising Inspector in Texas, has finished the shipping-point work in the vicinity of Weatherford and should be addressed temporarily in care of the State Dept. of Agriculture at Austin, Texas.

It is understood that R. H. vonGlahn, who was assisting with inspection work in Boston, has now returned to the New York City office. Bolling Hall, who substituted for the inspector at New Haven, Conn., also has returned to New York.

V. V. Westgate, in charge of shipping-point inspection work on Kansas potatoes, will finish that assignment about the middle of next week, and will go from Topeka back to his headquarters at Omaha, and will then take his annual leave.

G. W. Winfrey plans to go next week from Oklahoma to Arkansas and begin the shipping-point inspection work on grapes, with headquarters at Springdale, Arkansas, for the next couple of weeks.

T. W. Ayres, Federal Supervising Inspector in Virginia, is making his headquarters temporarily with the State Division of Markets, Room 1030 State Office Bldg., Richmond, Va. He makes frequent trips to peach loading stations such as Roanoke, Crozet and Timberville, to supervise the work on peaches.

G. W. Christenson has gone from Chicago to Minneapolis, from which point he will supervise potato inspections at shipping stations in southern Minnesota. He conducted a training class for inspectors this past week. His office is in Room 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis.

M. A. Russell also has gone from Chicago to Anna, Ill., his temporary headquarters during the shipping-point inspection work on Illinois peaches. He conducted a training class at Carbondale the first three days of this week.

W. A. Hilgeson has proceeded from Chicago to Wenatchee, Wash., where he will again serve as the Federal Supervising Inspector in that district during the apple shipping season.

J. E. Dickerson is located at Vincennes, Ind., during the period of shipping-point inspection work on southern Indiana and northern Kentucky peaches.

Wm. Gary Thompson, of the Market News staff with headquarters in Chicago, has resigned from the service, effective August 8. He expects to go into business at Asheville, N. C.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

W. D. Googe will go next week from Fort Worth, Texas, to Kansas City, Mo., where he will substitute for R. E. Corbin, while the latter is on annual leave.

R. M. Peterson has closed the field station at Macon, Ga., and is now in Baltimore, Md., where he will handle the market reporting work during the absence of W. E. Harrison on vacation.

V. H. Nicholson, who has operated the field station at Pocomoke City, Md., during the past 12 weeks, will close that office on Saturday and will then go on annual leave.

H. F. Willson closed the market news office at Candor, N. C., this week and will report in Cincinnati by Saturday, for the purpose of substituting for W. H. Mosier, while Mr. Mosier is on vacation.

R. G. Risser, who was located temporarily in the Los Angeles office, will open the news service on cantaloupes at Rocky Ford, Colo., next Thursday.

R. E. Keller, who has been on leave in Michigan, will open the news service on southwestern Michigan crops at Benton Harbor next Thursday.

R. L. Sutton, who was in the Washington office a few days, has now gone on his annual leave.

We regret to report that L. C. Tate, of the Minneapolis office, has been obliged to be off duty during most of the past two weeks on account of illness.

An error occurred in the Office Notes in last week's D.L. The field trip which Wm. E. Lewis is making at present is in the interest of grades for fresh sweet corn for canning and not fresh corn for market.

H. L. Harrington, of the Newark, N.J., inspection office, plans to be on annual leave during the remainder of this month. Any inspections in that market during this period probably will be taken care of by an inspector from the New York City office.

Frederick Wolfarth, of the New York City inspection staff, expects to be on vacation from August 20 until September 8.

MEMPHIS OFFICE of the Inspection Service was moved recently from Room 754 Randolph Bldg. to Room 1015 Falls Building. Please correct your list.

George E. Prince, Chief, Division of Markets in South Carolina, who has had his headquarters at Aiken, moved last week to the Chamber of Commerce Bldg. Columbia, S. C. His mail address is P. O. Box 1463, Columbia. Please note this change on all address lists.

The proper address for G. Ray Warren at Montreal, Canada, is Room 204, Board of Trade Bldg. This should be used in all communications.

INSPECTIONS BY MONTHS FOR THE NAVY, 1930-1931 (POUNDS)

Month	Charleston	Newport	New York	Norfolk	Phila.	Great Lakes
July	- - - -	1040402	439449	- - - -	206916	- - - -
August	- - - -	822191	634381	- - - -	154550	- - - -
September	- - - -	604111	383517	60200	225438	- - - -
October	212926	- - -	281675	74764	356178	- - - -
November	320868	- - -	443097	100605	379949	173098
December	264082	- - -	494350	73217	335240	242019
January	192128	- - -	389177	751096	369700	133530
February	- - - -	- - -	90797	841400	252733	138902
March	- - - -	- - -	161132	855597	345594	173296
April	- - - -	- - -	148370	570009	299922	100442
May	250254	14331	555383	142053	579285	142602
June	- - - -	369517	555454	76841	284155	122243
TOTAL	1240258	2850552	4576782	3545782	3789660	1226132
TOTAL 1929-1930	606678	1382055	4413330	5242748	4444788	0

Month	San Diego	San Francisco	San Pedro	Vallejo	Washington	TOTAL
July	780494	335001	613353	333247	13362	3762224
August	725033	1181263	240165	284065	14115	4055763
September	971606	267520	730812	298456	9335	3550995
October	789373	79100	1379869	267777	13216	3454878
November	755904	543804	560519	413867	14491	3706202
December	728281	763754	629629	191561	8805	3730938
January	830716	748739	903291	180638	- - -	4499015
February	416768	2094804	155076	158500	- - -	4148980
March	301037	81960	47424	177594	480	2144114
April	701975	628450	404030	199415	2025	3054638
May	625338	680145	659947	124071	10450	3783859
June	679271	638055	642121	274069	18023	3659749
TOTAL	8305796	8042595	6966236	2903260	104302	43551355
TOTAL 1929-1930	9426147	5369917	3944145	2565796	269735	38959260

INSPECTIONS BY MONTHS FOR THE MARINE CORPS, 1930-1931 (POUNDS)

Month	New York	Philadelphia	San Diego	San Francisco	Vallejo	TOTAL
July	63846	24137	84319	30000	44366	246668
August	65873	18118	83909	58000	29244	255144
September	73192	27431	94260	68000	28047	290930
October	52019	27058	65184	55105	36597	235963
November	57813	19690	41311	50000	0	168814
December	75240	22813	45661	50500	22866	217080
January	64192	25916	59306	50500	37064	236978
February	52445	20979	50752	48000	41116	213292
March	87125	22530	53251	58000	26586	247492
April	63079	19383	60522	56000	22434	221418
May	68943	23321	54930	57200	21515	225909
June	53634	20939	94371	48000	20273	237217
TOTAL	777401	272315	787776	629305	330108	2796905
TOTAL 1929-1930	719614	229400	987576	726810	238073	2947238

(SEE REVERSE SIDE)

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD, 1930-1931

Fruits and Vegetables - Pounds

	Passed	Rejected	Total
Galveston-Houston	82427	749	83176
New Orleans	122290	3347	125637
New York	103658	1113	104771
Norfolk	44546	4854	49400
TOTAL	352921	10063	362984

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE UNITED STATES VETERANS' HOSPITAL, 1930-1931

	Passed	Rejected	Total
Chicago	599357	230372	829729
Milwaukee	188620	11879	200499
New York	1474530	119486	1594016
Philadelphia	472745	107148	579893
St. Louis	112671	1860	114531
Great Lakes	163122	13440	176562
TOTAL	3021045	484185	3495220

In addition to the foregoing, the New York office inspected the following:

	Vegetables	Fruits	Rejections	Total
For the United States Lines	3107067	1064052	119274	4290393
For the Munson S. S. Line	644449	161166	21680	827295
For the American Diamond Line	255652	58660	7219	321531
For the American France Line	247614	46867	4666	299147
For the American India Line	135259	31460	772	167491
For the American Brazil Line	79724	17155	1015	97894
For the American Republic Line	7819	1266	0	9085
For the Dollar Line	246986	98997	4076	350059
For the Oriole S. S. Co.	1327	110	0	1437
For the Tampa Interocean	401	184	0	585
For the Columbia S. S. Lines	5078	993	434	6505
TOTAL	4731376	1480910	159136	6351422

SUMMARY OF TERMINAL MARKET INSPECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1930-1931

Month	Total	Carlot	L.C.L.	Declined for Lack of Time	Railroad Inspections
July	3035	2799	236	8	1065
Aug.	2128	1894	234	15	309
Sept.	3027	2603	424	21	266
Oct.	4150	3709	441	51	240
Nov.	3240	2919	321	27	297
Dec.	2778	2487	291	18	188
Jan.	2789	2548	241	17	195
Feb.	2786	2582	204	24	307
March	3135	2916	219	20	554
April	3655	3414	241	11	1034
May	4032	3800	232	37	1620
June	3526	3276	250	40	1291
TOTAL	38281	34947	3334	289	7366

Total inspections for carriers: 1927-28 - 8929; 1928-29 - 8509; 1929-30 - 18073.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 34 August 21, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. ARTICLES IN 1931 U.S.D.A. YEARBOOK

Distribution was made recently of the Yearbook of Agriculture, 1931. Two of the articles in this issue were written by members of the Fruit and Vegetable staff. Wm. E. Lewis has an article on "Canning Grades in Increased Demand as Their Utility Is Seen." J. W. Park is author of an article on "Apple Market Supply Is Composed Largely of a Few Varieties."

2a. LOS ANGELES CANTALOUPE MARKET DESCRIBED

The July issue of the Western Grower and Shipper contains an article by Walter Kingsbury, of the Los Angeles office, entitled: "Speaking for Los Angeles -" In a sub-heading it is explained that Mr. Kingsbury finds cantaloupe prices in his market compare favorably with those received in distant centers. The article is illustrated by two excellent charts.

This same paper also contains briefly the life story of O. D. Miller, formerly a member of our market-news staff. It is illustrated by a portrait of "O.D." This story is one of a series telling about western growers and shippers. Mr. Miller's home is now in Phoenix, Arizona.

3a. NEW ADDRESS LIST OF CITY MARKET STATIONS

With this D. L., copies of the revised (Aug. 10) Market Station Address List are being sent to all employees in the field. Each office should examine carefully the data pertaining to its own city and should report to Washington at once any errors or omissions. Destroy the old lists dated Nov. 1, 1930.

4a. FARM BOARD TO FINANCE FRUIT INDUSTRIES, LTD.

Agreement to finance Fruit Industries, Ltd., manufacturers of commodities from grape by-products, during the coming year has been announced by the Federal Farm Board. The amount of money to be advanced the cooperative was not revealed by the Board. At the beginning of negotiations between the grape interests and the Government agency earlier this summer, Fruit Industries, Ltd., asked for an advance this season of over $3,000,000. However, damage caused by drought and insects so reduced expected grape production this year in California that this amount was reduced to approximately $900,000. In its formal announcement, the Board stated that "a commitment of funds sufficient to cover estimated needs for the year 1931-1932 had been made, under mutually satisfactory arrangements, to Fruit Industries, Ltd., of San Francisco, Calif."

(Journal of Commerce, Aug. 17.)

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. NORTHWESTERN CROP NOTES

"Northwestern onions have strengthened at shipping points and in leading markets. The August 1 estimate shows a reduction of about 6,300,000 bushels below the 1930 production in the late States. Shipments of Spanish Valencias from the Walla Walla district are slowly decreasing, and Yakima Valley onions will not be ready to move before September 1. Current quotations of about $1 per cwt., f.o.b. shipping point, are about 10¢-25¢ above last week's level.

"The peach harvest in Yakima district has been delayed until near September 1, although early varieties from some early districts are moving, mostly by auto truck to near-by markets. Quality of this fruit is excellent, though the crop is not a large one. The Milton-Freewater prune harvest is slowly getting under way, but carlot movement is still light and a true market has not been established.

"The crop of cantaloupes in all northwestern districts is light and many fields have been entirely harvested. Late cantaloupes in Oregon will receive some attention the remainder of the season.

"Some fields of Iceberg lettuce in western Washington are yielding a second cutting of good-quality lettuce. Most shipments are rolled for delivered sales. Good-quality cabbage is being shipped in mixed cars to markets in the Rocky Mountain States. Cauliflower, bunched vegetables and celery are other items which are in popular demand. Quality of this year's celery is good, and liberal quantities will be available for later distribution."

(T. R. Hall, Seattle, Aug. 12.)

2b. AN ADDITIONAL SUMMARY ISSUED

"Marketing Oregon-Washington Fresh Prunes, 1930 Season," is the title of an additional field-station summary, issued this week. The author is R.H.Lamb.

3b. CALIFORNIA GRAPE MARKET DULL AND WEAK

"The local grape market continues dull, with present movement light, as compared with last year. On Saturday, August 15, California moved 95 cars and on Saturday, August 16, last year 187 cars. However, on account of the early season this year, it was not until August 16 that shipments to date last year moved ahead of 1931, the total then being 2,979, compared with 2,956.

"Most of the cash f.o.b. sales are of cars of mixed varieties, Thompsons ranging 60¢-75¢ according to quality and pack, Malagas 65¢-75¢ and Red Malagas and Ribiers $1.15-$1.25 per lug. A few local Tokays of poor color have started at $1.25, and I hear that Tokays from Florin, the best in California, have opened around $2. Reports from Florin also indicate that only about 300 cars of Tokays will move from that district.

"A few juice grapes are moving, but apparently the only demand comes from the Northwest, with opening prices $32.50-$35 per ton. Zinfandels the week ending August 11 graded about 50% each U.S. No. 1 and No. 2. Only 25% of the total California grape movement for that week was inspected. This was caused by the general quality. It is reported that many of the Zinfandels will be used for wine raisins. About 93% of the Thompsons inspected for the week ending August 11 made U.S. No. 1, and 98½% of the Malagas.

"Cash buyers are conspicuous by their absence, compared with former seasons, when (from all reports) the Sequoia Hotel was a grape board of trade, similar to the Barbara Worth on cantaloupes and lettuce at El Centro. In trying to determine the cause of the poor demand for grapes, local factors think that heavy shipments of peaches crowded grapes from eastern tables. But table grapes are usually eaten between meals and, therefore, peaches should not compete with them so much. Probably low buying power is the principal cause, and ordinary quality of much of the stock may be another cause. Malaga sales on auction markets have recently been better.

"A comparison of the average auction prices in city markets during the past few weeks shows a great decline. During the week ending July 24, Thompsons averaged $1.84 per lug or crate and during the week ending August 14 the average for this variety was $1.19. In the same period, Malagas declined from $1.81 to $1.36 and Red Malagas from an average of $2.92 to an average of $1.87. Ribiers averaged $2.85 during the week ending July 31 and $2.02 by August 14. Prices of Thompsons now compare rather favorably with those of a year ago, but Malagas recently averaged 44¢ less than at the same time in 1930 and Red Malagas averaged 60¢ below last season's level.

"Shipments are expected to continue fairly light for the next three weeks, and some shippers do not expect California movement to exceed 125 a day during August. Local temperature lately has been around 100° maximum and 65° to 70° minimum. (A. E. Prugh, Fresno, August 17)

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News

CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GRADING SERVICE

1f. GRADING OFFICE OPENED ON EASTERN SHORE

J. C. Bigger, whose appointment was mentioned last week, has been placed in charge of a temporary office at Room 206, Stewart Building, Easton, Maryland, which will serve a large number of canneries in that part of the Eastern Shore and in Delaware. He will inspect and grade several different vegetables during the season, which may last until November. Paul M. Williams went to Easton during the early part of this week, to assist in getting this new office established.

This service on canned products is rapidly expanding. The Washington office particularly has been receiving large quantities of samples for grading.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
WALLA WALLA, WASH.	939	J. D. Hamilton	Prunes	Aug. 13	Aug. 29
ROCK FORD, COLO.	821	R. G. Risser	Cants.	Aug. 19	Sept. 15
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P. O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 24	Sept. 19
			Peaches	Sept. 1	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sept. 1	Oct. 24
			Onions	Sept. 8	Oct. 24
			Potatoes	Oct. 7	Oct. 24
The following station will probably open on date indicated:					
ROCHESTER, N. Y.** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears	Sept. 1	Nov. 7
			Apples	Sept. 1	May 21
			Onions	Sept. 1	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 1	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 1	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 1	Jan. 9
			Peaches	Sept. 8	Oct. 3
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct. 31
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21

** State cooperating.

W.F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. L. Sutton on leave
R. M. Peterson in Baltimore
H. F. Willson in Cincinnati
V. H. Nicholson on leave
J. B. Owens in Pittsburgh
A. M. McDowell in Cleveland
W. D. Googe in Kansas City
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Maine

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. CAUTION REGARDING APPLE SHIPMENTS TO UNITED KINGDOM

The following cable was received August 15 from F. A. Motz, Fruit Specialist in Europe, Foreign Agricultural Service Division:-

"Essential all apple shipments consigned to United Kingdom be accompanied by special certificate covering grade, as specified in British Apple Order. Ministry just requested our inspection department be more careful. Have just secured release of three cars California apples which arrived at Liverpool minus certificates. Another shipment of three cars consigned to Hull is awaiting advice of customs. Advise all offices to obtain certificates covered by Order."

2c. PEACH AND APPLE INSPECTION WORK IN VIRGINIA

T. W. Ayres sent the following report from Richmond, Va., under date of August 14:-

"Reports indicate that the general harvest of Virginia peaches will begin with shipments of Georgia Belles on August 17, with the peak of Elbertas between the 20th and 25th. The crop is estimated variously from 500 to 600 carloads. We have contracts for inspection of about 375 carloads, and growers controlling the remainder of the crop look favorably on inspection but have been holding-off in hope that prices would improve. Several crops of Carmans and Hileys were not harvested because of the low prices prevailing. Indications are that most of the crop will be of good quality and fair size. In a few locations, the fruit has been scarred by hail.

"Temporary offices for peach inspection will be opened at Cloverdale, Timberville and Crozet, with one inspector working in the vicinity of Lynchburg. We have the organization mapped out and supplies en route.

"Have made one trip in the fruit belt to Crozet, Staunton, and Winchester, on which I had a chance to observe the apple crop. In general, the orchards are loaded with fruit, trees in thrifty condition, and apples well distributed on branches, so that they should attain medium to large sizes mostly. The fruit is not showing much red color as yet. From the standpoint of defects, we shall have some bad hail-injury in a few localities and worms in many sections because many of the growers did not apply arsenical sprays later than June.

"The proposition to draw arsenical spray residue samples from the orchards previous to harvest is well received by the growers. Samples are coming slowly, because of the small movement of early fall varieties and also because we are drawing samples only where contract for inspection has been signed, except where the party wishes to pay mileage and inspector's time."

3c. GRAPES MOVING IN SACRAMENTO DISTRICT

Tokays started moving from Florin last Monday. The quality of the first picking is better than was expected in view of the heavy damage from the heat in July. A car of Zinfandels was inspected in Winters today. This is the first car of juice grapes for this district this season. (Sacramento, Aug. 14)

4c. ONION AND POTATO INSPECTIONS IN IOWA

The following letter of August 17 came from R. C. Lindstrom, at Des Moines, Iowa:-

"The Pleasant Valley district of southeastern Iowa will finish shipping onions the latter part of next week. We have inspected to date about 285 cars, which is about 125 less than last year. Our total for the season from that point will be about 315 or 325, while last year's total was 440 cars. This drop in inspection work is due to two things:- Last year's crop was above the average; this year we had an average yield of set onions but the seed onions will fall about 75 cars below normal. The sets matured before hot weather and lack of moisture could affect them, while the seed was caught in the early bulbing stage by the dry, hot weather.

"I returned Saturday from an inspection tour of the northern district and present indications are for about 35% of normal tonnage of onions in the St. Ansgar district. A test of a slightly-below-average field showed 40% of the onions under 1¼" in diameter but the remainder ranging from 1-1/4" to 2". The more average fields will show 10% to 25% under 1-1/4" with the remainder of onions ranging from 1-1/4" to 2-1/4", mostly 1-3/4" to 1-7/8". All growers in this district have purchased 1-1/4" screens and I do not expect that 5% of the onions will grade U.S. No. 1. Many of the fields still show the tops green and a fair amount of moisture in the ground, but the thrips have started to work in small spots and under these conditions there will be practically no growth of the bulb.

"In the Crystal Lake district, conditions are more favorable. The [illegible] onions at the present time are about 75% normal, the tops green, and the bulbs growing under good conditions. We also inspect nearly all the potatoes out of the Crystal Lake district and their condition is fairly good, with practically a normal yield in prospect. The reason for the great difference in these two districts is that the St. Ansgar section is all high mineral land and the Crystal Lake district is composed almost entirely of peat.

"I expect to spend a week or 10 days, beginning the 19th of August, getting the deal started."

5c. RECENT NEWS ON IDAHO POTATOES

Writing from Boise, Idaho, on August 14, L. G. Schultz, Supervising Inspector, said that most of the local authorities estimate approximately 25% damage to the potato crop in that State from the extreme heat of recent weeks. Mr. Schultz expressed the opinion that the amount of damage will depend largely upon the length of the growing season. Continuing, he wrote:

"The potatoes from the Canyon County district are moving out quite rapidly, and the Russets are generally of as fine a quality as I have ever seen from this territory. We have, of course, the usual amount of rough No. 2 stock, but the U.S. No. 1 graded stock puts up a very attractive appearance. There has been a decided change in the methods of handling potatoes during the past few years in this section, and very little stock is now shipped but what passes through the warehouse and is machine-graded. This gives a much more uniform packing and eliminates trouble for all concerned."

THE ONION CROP in 17 late shipping States this season is forecast at 13,846,000 bushels, or 31% less than last year's heavy crop.

6c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Connecticut Valley Onion Company,	South Deerfield, Mass.	$5.00

The following should be taken off the List of Past-Due Accounts:

Malloy Buscher Company,	St. Louis, Mo.	$1.00
Midwest Fruit Company,	Muskogee, Okla.	$4.00
Geo. F. Brooks,	Hamilton, Mont.	$4.00

7c. MATERIAL SENT TO INSPECTORS

On Saturday of last week, copies of the short grade forms for California table grapes and California juice grapes were mailed to all inspectors. If anyone was overlooked, he should request copies at once.

With this D. L., each inspector will receive a copy of the booklet entitled: "Oregon Standards for Grading, Packing, Certification and Package of Apples, Pears and Other Fruits, and Potatoes."

ROBERT BIER,
Supervising Inspector

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. MEASURING LENGTH OF CELERY

The length of a celery stalk should be measured from the place where the main root is cut off to a point which represents the average length of the longest branches and leaves.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. AMENDMENT NO. 2 UNDER RULES OF P.A.C. ACT

With this D. L., each technical employee in the field will receive a copy of the mimeographed Amendment No. 2 to Service and Regulatory Announcements No. 121, relating to the P.A.C. Act. This is a series of important trade terms and definitions, with which all our employees should be familiar. The amendment should be carefully studied by all.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg. San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Sept. 1
INDIANA:	J. E. Dickerson, County Agent's Office, Vincennes, Ind.	Peaches	Aug. 12	Sept. 1
ILLINOIS:	M. A. Russell, Anna Hotel, Anna, Ill.	Peaches	Aug. 13	Sept. 3
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Sept. 20
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House,(Box 190) Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 1030 State Office Bldg., Richmond, Va.	Peaches	Aug. 17	Sept. 5
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Springdale, Ark.	Grapes	Aug. 20	Sept. 5
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 7

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Missouri potatoes.....F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office
Iowa products.....R.C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Kentucky products.....T. C. Curry, Louisville office
Massachusetts onions.....O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Ohio products.....M. W. Baker, Columbus office
Indiana onions.....Federal-State Inspection, Warsaw, Ind.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING JULY, 1931.

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total Fees
Atlanta	83	81	3	0	$354.00
Baltimore	70	60	3	0	278.00
Birmingham	6	-	0	0	22.50
Boston	592	224	428	75	2,182.78
Buffalo	33	32	1	0	140.34
Chicago	250	90	6	4	1,022.29
Cincinnati	46	54	0	0	241.54
Cleveland	132	50	22	0	681.58
Columbus	25	31	0	0	140.12
Dallas	6	-	1	0	45.39
Denver	26	27	1	0	100.50
Des Moines	9	-	0	0	39.60
Detroit	85	98	0	0	341.00
Fort Worth	10	5	0	0	61.15
Harrisburg	7	5	0	5	36.98
Indianapolis	27	25	0	0	113.64
Jacksonville	3	-	0	0	49.08
Kansas City	75	49	55	1	279.38
Los Angeles	0	4	0	0	.00
Louisville	7	-	0	0	26.50
Memphis	65	47	58	0	259.50
Milwaukee	270	226	72	0	1,022.35
Minneapolis	34	21	0	0	139.00
Newark	81	95	8	1	321.76
New Haven	70	48	21	3	357.89
New Orleans	125	155	18	0	213.00
New York	582	925	285	1	2,557.91
Norfolk	3	-	0	0	14.00
Omaha	39	31	27	5	146.15
Philadelphia	138	179	10	3	606.34
Pittsburgh	165	214	15	1	725.95
Portland	5	5	0	0	23.50
Providence	19	4	0	0	78.50
Rochester	31	15	0	3	141.06
St. Louis	80	127	20	0	317.37
Salt Lake	2	4	0	0	6.50
San Francisco	0	0	0	0	# 190.00
Scranton	1*	-	0	0	4.00
Seattle	4	2	0	0	17.00
Springfield	40	46	11	0	199.52
Toledo	33	5	0	1	136.28
Trenton	1	3	0	0	4.00
Tulsa	6	-	0	0	62.08
Washington	53	21	4	2	342.37
Wilkes-Barre	33	27	3	0	131.00
TOTAL	3372	3035	1072	105	$14,183.40

\# This covers cost of British export certificates.

* This office opened July 27, 1931.

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:-Total 2,716: 1,227 Nickel Plate, 80 B.& O., 21 Erie, 1,039 Pennsylvania, 122 Kroger's.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING JULY, 1931

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

Symbols:- N-NAVY M-MARINE CORPS	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED		Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED		TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-weight	
STATIONS	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
GREAT LAKES	151493	0	39767	0	191260	0	0	0	0	0
NEWPORT	806797	0	25639	0	832436	0	2629	0	0	0
NEW YORK	272518	57983	12605	358	285123	58341	590	0	0	0
NORFOLK	72725	0	0	0	72725	0	0	0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	327913	31610	6570	116	334483	31726	1129	95	0	0
SAN DIEGO	637156	68425	3799	0	640955	68425	1218	50	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO	178000	48000	10000	1600	188000	49600	0	0	0	0
SAN PEDRO	531814	0	16025	0	547839	0	454	0	0	0
VALLEJO	266668	35037	17998	782	284666	35819	538	100	0	0
WASHINGTON	18544	0	30	0	18574	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3263628	239055	132433	2856	3396061	241911	6558	245	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U.S. SHIPPING BOARD										
NEW YORK	6621		0		6621		0		0	
PHILADELPHIA	4418		0		4418		0		0	
TOTALS	11039		0		11039		0		0	
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U.S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL										
CHICAGO	126910		71160		198070		0		0	
GREAT LAKES	56565		3080		59645		0		0	
MILWAUKEE	17249		1767		19016		0		0	
NEW YORK	227917		16264		244181		0		0	
PHILADELPHIA	77998		9462		87460		0		0	
ST. LOUIS	38623		680		39303		0		0	
TOTALS	545262		102413		647675		0		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	158459	360941	6331
Munson S. S. Line	11676	38316	2543
Dollar Line	30694	60740	1393
American France Line	5632	23799	422
American Diamond Line	7025	24169	592
American Brazil Line	196	659	40
Columbia S. S. Line	1338	4106	390
	215020	512730	11511

The San Pedro office also inspected 3,556 lbs. bread; 16,210 lbs. butter, and 2,370 lbs. cheese for the Navy. The Vallejo office inspected 28,132 lbs. bread for the Navy.

OFFICE NOTES:

R. C. Butner, Supervisor of Inspection, is spending this entire week on vacation at Atlantic City, N.J. He expects to be back on Monday.

R. R. Pailthorp expects to go to Berryville, Va., this Saturday for the picnic given by former Governor Harry F. Byrd, which is attended annually by large numbers of fruit growers and shippers, Mr. Pailthorp will discuss the U. S. grades for apples.

Wm. E. Leigh spent the first part of this week at Warsaw, Va., and vicinity, assisting licensed inspectors in the application of the grades for cannery tomatoes. About 40 inspectors are working in that territory and another 40 in vicinity of Easton, Md.

C. R. Newton, of the Regulatory Branch, left Washington on Monday for an investigational trip in the interest of the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act. He expects to visit Atlanta, Memphis, New Orleans, Fort Worth, Houston, Jackson, Miss., and Miami, Fla.

An annual gathering of farmers, interested particularly in fruit growing, will be held this Saturday at Sudbury, Mass. Between 200 and 300 persons are expected to attend, and the gathering will be addressed by W. F. Plummer, in charge of our Boston inspection office. He will talk on the U.S. grades for apples.

J. J. Gardner left Pittsburgh last Wednesday evening and has located in the Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va., which will be his field headquarters during supervision of the apple inspection work at shipping points in West Virginia. He will conduct a training class for inspectors during the next week or two.

L. C. Carey and T. C. J. Baker have returned from their recent field trips in the interest of work on standard containers for fruits and vegetables.

H. T. Longino, Federal Supervising Inspector in Texas, arrived at Austin on Wednesday of this week, and on Thursday he assisted with the work at the Navasota grading school in Grimes County, Texas.

P. T. Baden, inspector in Detroit, began his annual leave this week. W. E. Phillips, who was substituting in Milwaukee, has now gone to Detroit to handle the work in that market during Mr. Baden's absence.

George E. Prince, who supervises the inspection work in South Carolina, is now on two weeks' vacation.

Announcement has been received of the birth of a son, Richard Joseph, to Mr. and Mrs. V. D. Callanan on July 31. The announcement came from Turlock, Calif. Mr. Callanan was formerly a member of our market-news staff.

W. J. Bertush has completed his shipping-point inspection work on eastern Tennessee peaches and returned to his headquarters in Chicago. He has now proceeded to Minneapolis, where he is substituting for R. M. Ferguson, who is on annual leave.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 35 August 28, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. A REPORT ON TRUCK RECEIPTS IN 19 CITIES DURING 1930

Recently the Unload Reports section in Washington released for distribution a 26-paged mimeographed report entitled: "Truck Receipts of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in 19 Cities During 1930." The markets covered are -

Atlanta	Denver	New Orleans	San Francisco
Baltimore	Indianapolis	New York City	St. Louis
Boston	Kansas City	Philadelphia	Seattle
Chicago	Los Angeles	Portland	Washington
Cleveland	Minneapolis	Salt Lake City	

The tabulations for each city are on the basis of products and originating States. All figures are reduced to carlot equivalents, and the total for the 19 markets is 126,243 carloads. However, these figures are incomplete for many cities and they cover only part of the year in certain markets. If all reports were complete and for the entire 12 months, the total receipts by truck would doubtless be much greater than 126,000 carloads.

2a. CANNED GOODS GRADING PROJECT KEPT BUSY

Under present arrangements, the samples of canned fruits and vegetables which are submitted to the Veterans' Bureau, accompanying bids for its quarterly requirements, are sent to this Division for cutting and grading. Bids were submitted for the current quarter by a large number of concerns, with the result that Paul M. Williams and his assistants in the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Project have been literally swamped with work and remained on duty practically all day Saturday and Sunday, August 22 and 23.

This grading work for Government institutions and for commercial applicants has outgrown the limited space devoted to Mr. Williams' work under the U.S. Warehouse Act, and active preparations are under way to move the Project into the quarters recently devoted to research work on tobacco in the Linworth Place Building. This will bring the new Project into closer contact with the rest of the Fruit and Vegetable Division than has been possible in the past.

With respect to the work of this new Project in the field, it is of much interest to note that the first certificates were issued last week at the field office recently established at Easton, Md., and at the Tulsa, Okla., office. It is expected that active work will soon begin at Louisville, Ky., and at a branch office to be opened about September 15 in Chicago.

NO DIVISION LETTER WILL BE ISSUED FOR NEXT FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. MICHIGAN APPLE HARVEST DELAYED BY UNFAVORABLE MARKETS

"The Duchess apple crop in Michigan matured as early as expected, but harvesting has been delayed on account of market conditions. There is practically no demand for summer apples and, as yet, the crop is still on the trees or the ground. Some carlots and more trucklots will move, but most of the Duchess crop will be abandoned. Bushel baskets of 'A' grade 2-1/2 inches up Duchess are now moving over the Benton Harbor market on a wagonload-cash-to-growers basis at 40¢-55¢, mostly 40¢-50¢, and one or two carlots on an f.o.b. usual-terms basis for the same grade have moved at 60¢-70¢. A better situation is expected when the first fall varieties start moving next week."

(R. E. Keller, Benton Harbor, Aug. 22)

2b. RECENT NEWS FROM STATE OF WASHINGTON

"Export orders for Washington's apple crop are being received more freely this fall than they were up to a corresponding date last year, according to figures compiled by some leading shippers. This condition is gratifying in view of serious economic conditions in many parts of the world. Dealers and exporters contend that it is a favorable reflection of confidence which has been created by northwestern fruit in the world markets.

"Picking of Bartlett pears in the Yakima Valley and Wenatchee Valley is rapidly drawing to an end. Picking and packing of the Rogue River Bosc pear crop has started, and d'Anjous will follow. The Washington Bartlett pear market is holding steady, with a slightly better demand developing. The smaller city markets are using northwestern pears rather freely.

"The peach harvest in Yakima district is being delayed by cool nights. The blackberry movement from the Puyallup district is receiving most attention of western Washington shippers, lettuce being restricted to mixed carlots, green peas being practically unavailable, and such items as cabbage, celery and cauliflower being largely used by local consumers." (T.R.Hall, Seattle, Aug. 19)

3b. CHANGES ON "KU" PAGE OF CODE

Effective September 4, please change the following symbols on the "KU" (Cantaloupes) page of the code as indicated:-

Change			
EG	3s & 5s	to read	3s to 5s
EJ	3s & 6s	" "	3s to 6s
EM	4s & 6s	" "	4s to 6s
EN	4s & 8s	" "	4s to 8s
EQ	5s & 8s	" "	5s to 8s
ET	5s & 9s	" "	5s to 9s
EX	6s & 8s	" "	6s to 8s
EY	6s & 9s	" "	6s to 9s

The following change on the same page of the code was also wired to all offices yesterday, to become effective August 31:

Make UF - Hales Best and Perfectos,- instead of Salmon Tints &Perfectos.

4b. IMPORTANT NOTES ON COLORADO CROPS

"The peach crop on the Western Slope of Colorado looks unusually good this season, with an estimated production around Palisade and Grand Junction of 2,000 carloads. The trees were pruned back well; they show a heavy set of good color and well sized. The Elberta movement this season is about one week behind normal. The peak movement will probably be September 2 or 3.

"The pear movement from western Colorado has slackened somewhat temporarily until the second picking is ready to start. The quality of the pear crop is only fair to ordinary, with much of the stock misshapen and of irregular quality as a result of hail injury. Combination-grade Bartletts were reported selling around 65¢ per bushel, f.o.b. usual terms.

"Cooler weather with occasional showers has improved conditions for green peas, so that shipments will be heavier than anticipated two weeks ago. Prices have advanced this week, with demand fairly good. The cauliflower movement is ahead of last season, with practically all of the movement to date from the San Luis Valley. Potato prices have declined, with growers receiving around 50¢ per cwt. on the Western Slope for No. 1 Cobblers."

(Bryce Morris, Denver, August 22)

5b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES DISTRIBUTED

This past week, three additional summaries of field deals have been distributed as follows:-

"Marketing Western New York and Pennsylvania Grapes, 1930 Season," by R. L. Sutton, L. D. Spink and A. L. Thomas.

"Marketing Michigan Peaches and Pears, 1930 Season," by R. E. Keller.

"Marketing Michigan Grapes, 1930 Season," by R. E. Keller.

6b. CHANGES IN WASHINGTON POTATO GRADES

The following item is taken from the Northwestern Weekly Market Review, published at the Portland office on August 17:-

Changes in Washington potato grades were worked out at a meeting of growers in Yakima recently. Culls may be shipped when placed in 25-pound bags and the word "culls" printed in two-inch letters on both sides of the sack. The U. S. grades will remain unchanged but Washington Combination will be changed to require at least 50% No. 1 stock instead of 75% as heretofore. Not more than 6% defects of No. 2 grade will be allowed. The new marketing requirement will take effect beginning September 1.

7b. MISSOURI AND KANSAS POTATO NEWS

"The potato movement from the Orrick and Kaw Valley districts was delayed by rains last week, and since that time little activity has been reported. Potatoes from the Orrick section go largely to the St. Louis and Chicago markets. Kaw Valley shipments consist almost entirely of combination-grade and U.S. No. 2's, and a considerable portion of them goes to Texas markets.

"Reports of the number of cars remaining to be shipped vary widely,- from 300 to 400 cars in the Kaw Valley section and from 100 to 200 in the Orrick section. This variation is due somewhat to the larger volume which may be handled by trucks, in case prices do not show an advance. In spite of rainy weather, local arrivals here in Kansas City are fairly free from dirt."

(W. D. Googe, Kansas City, August 25)

8b. COLORADO CANTALOUPE MOVEMENT IN FULL SWING

"The heavy movement of Colorado cantaloupes is now under way. Daily output is not expected to go as high as last year, when peak of the season amounted to 132 cars on September 2, but loadings last week and this week will probably be the most liberal of any time during the shipping period. Some of the late plantings have been seriously affected by a deficiency of irrigation water and rainfall, and some were partially or entirely ruined by a localized hailstorm on August 20. The later settings on the crops now maturing may not develop shipping stock, on account of lack of soil moisture. Altogether the indications are that the September movement will be very light.

"While carlot shipments are not excessive and track holdings in city markets do not reach the high figures shown earlier in the summer, the truck receipts in most markets seriously hamper those who are interested in marketing the Colorado crop, and shippers are looking hopefully for a curtailment in the truck movement in eastern States. Prices so far have been unsatisfactory." (R. G. Risser, Rocky Ford, August 24)

9b. AN INTERESTING REPORT ON MINNESOTA POTATOES

"Recent news from the Red River Valley indicates first loadings of potatoes in that section around September 1, with active digging by the 10th of the month. Brokers and dealers from that section, visiting in Minneapolis over the past few days, are of the opinion that the Valley will have a large crop, with quality probably average or better. Samples of Red River potatoes brought here this morning were large and of good type, but samples may be no criterion.

"The peat lands of central and northern Minnesota appear to have a normal crop of potatoes in sight. Sandland territory, as stated in a previous letter, has a generally poor crop this year, both as to size and yield, as well as to quality. Local shippers are now attempting to do a little business. All of the potatoes I have personally viewed at the sorting tables in Minneapolis have been of small size and poor quality. Shippers are not yet compelled to work under the requirements of the State tagging law; so they are not attempting to make a grade on the local potatoes but are shipping mostly field-run. Shippers have been paying growers 40¢-50¢ per cwt. for these stocks. This is a losing proposition for the farmers, as their yields are running only around 40 or 50 bushels to the acre.

"The Twin Cities market at present is a good outlet for western potatoes. Homegrown stock is so small that the trade is able to sell Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Washington potatoes freely at prices that average about double those received for homegrown Early Ohios.

"Southern Minnesota onions are reported to be generally small this season, probably as a result of the hot, dry weather in July. Dealers here anticipate a good winter market for large-sized stock, especially western Valencias. Local cabbage, usually ample to care for local market requirements, is scarce this year and of low quality, so that carlot receipts are still finding a fairly good outlet here." (L. C. Tate, Minneapolis, Aug.24)

10b. SALINAS-WATSONVILLE LETTUCE MOVEMENT has been increasing, according to a report from L. H. Howard, at Salinas. Active demand, high prices and improved growing weather were factors tending to increase the shipments. This crop has ranked as a leading money-maker among the various crops in California.

- B. C. BOREE, Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably Will Close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
ROCKYFORD, COLO.	821	R. G. Risser	Cants.	Aug. 19	Sept. 12
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P. O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 31	Sept. 19
			Peaches	Sept. 1	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sept. 1	Oct. 24
			Onions	Sept. 8	Oct. 24
			Potatoes	Oct. 7	Oct. 24
ROCHESTER, N. Y.** 310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears	Sept. 1	Nov. 7
			Apples	Sept. 1	May 21
			Onions	Sept. 1	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 1	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 1	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 1	Jan. 9
			Peaches	Sept. 8	Oct. 3
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct. 31
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21

The following stations will probably open on dates indicated:

PRESQUE ISLE, ME.**	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.**	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA.	835	R. M. Peterson	Apples	Sept. 14	Oct. 31
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7

**State cooperating.

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. M. Peterson in Baltimore
H. F. Willson in Cincinnati
J. D. Hamilton returned to Portland

V. H. Nicholson on leave
J. B. Owens in Boston
A. M. McDowell in Chicago
W. D. Googe in Kansas City
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

The following station closes on date indicated:

WALLA WALLA, WASH.	939	J. D. Hamilton	Prunes	Aug. 13	Aug. 29

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. USE TERM "OPEN MESH FIBER" TO DESCRIBE ONION SACKS

It has been called to our attention that the word "saxolin" is sometimes used on inspection certificates to indicate open mesh bags. As "saxolin" is a private brand and not a kind of material, this term is not appropriate. Onions are usually shipped in one of the following kinds of sacks:

(1) Open mesh fiber sacks
(2) Open mesh burlap sacks
(3) Burlap sacks

The use of these terms will describe practically every kind of a sack in which onions are shipped. Inspectors should have no difficulty in distinguishing between the open mesh fiber and the open mesh burlap sacks, because of the difference in the materials used in their manufacture.

2c. TERM "NEW POTATOES" NOT APPROPRIATE FOR LATE STOCK

Some inspectors are still using the term "new potatoes" on stock from New Jersey and Long Island. This term is appropriate for potatoes from the South early in the season, when old potatoes are still on the market, but at this time of the year potatoes are usually "fairly well matured" or are "well matured," and one of these terms should be used. The term "new potatoes" is not applicable to early shipments from the northern States. See Par. 97 under Potatoes in the Inspectors' Handbook.

3c. GROWERS' MARKS IMPORTANT

It sometimes happens that one or two growers' marks in a car of produce show different conditions from the remainder of the load. Under such circumstances, it is highly important to report these marks or growers' names separately om the inspection certificate. A large cooperative organization has made a spesial request for information of this kind, in order to check up and settle properly with different growers. Do not overlook this point.

4c. CONFERENCE OF SUPERVISING INSPECTORS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

On the coming Saturday, August 29, a conference of Supervising Inspectors will be held in the Washington office. The interpretation of the new apple grades will be the main subject for consideration, and attention will be given to other matters relating to shipping-point inspection work. In addition to Washington representatives of the Inspection Service and the Standardization Project, the following are expected to attend this meeting:-

W. C. Hackleman, New York City
F. S. Kinsey, New England
W. C. Lynn, New Jersey
F. S. Zimmerman, Delaware
D. M. James, Pennsylvania
S. B. Shaw, Maryland
T. W. Ayres, Virginia
J. J. Gardner, West Virginia

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg. San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Oct. 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Sept. 20
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House, (Box 190) Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 1030 State Office Bldg., Richmond, Va.	Peaches	Aug. 17	Sept. 5
ARKANSAS:	G. W. Winfrey, Springdale, Ark.	Grapes	Aug. 20	Sept. 5
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 7
INDIANA:	J. E. Dickerson, Warsaw, Ind.	Onions	Sept. 1	Nov. 15
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1

Reports on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-
Iowa products.....R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Massachusetts onions .....O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Ohio products .....M. W. Baker, Columbus office
Illinois peaches.....M. A. Russell, Chicago office

5c. ENCLOSURES FOR INSPECTORS

With this D.L., each inspector will receive a copy of the booklet, "Official Grades; Standardization of Idaho Farm Products, 1931-32," and a copy of the grading specifications for "Cris Cringle" brand Christmas trees, as published by the Washington Christmas Tree Association, at Seattle, Wash.

- R.C.B.

SEE Par. 6c. on page 522 of this D.L.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS UNDER P.A.C. ACT

The Acting Secretary of Agriculture approved, under date of August 20, Amendment No. 3 to the regulations under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. This amendment is not yet available for distribution and probably will not be until Amendment No. 4, now pending, is issued, when it is hoped to publish all of the amendments together.

Amendment No. 3 changes the definition of "truly and correctly to account" to make it clear that the law relates to failure to account for purchases just as much as it does for failure to account for consignments. The change in this definition also makes necessary a change in the definition of "account promptly." The Solicitor of the Department has held that the law cannot be construed to cover the failure of dealers to pay brokerage charges to brokers. The Solicitor's reasoning is that the law penalizes failure to account "to the person with whom such transaction is had" and that this language must be construed as having reference to the buyer and seller and that, hence, the broker is not a "person with whom such transaction is had."

The third change is in the definition of "reject." As originally written, the definition implied refusal to accept after actual physical tendering of the car at the destination point. As it now stands, notification by the buyer that he will not abide by the terms of the contract, or the commission of an act inconsistent with the terms of the contract, or the omission of an act which may reasonably indicate an intention not to accept such produce are considered as rejection.

Two paragraphs have been added to Regulation 7, Section 1. These provide a shortened procedure under which the delay and expense of a hearing may be avoided. The complainant may file a sworn statement of his side of the case, accompanied by any documentary evidence available. The respondent is given an opportunity to make a sworn answer to this complaint and the complainant may then comment on the respondent's answer. The statements will then be examined and the Secretary will issue an order, based on them, just as he issues an order based on the records in the case of a hearing. It is hoped that this shortened procedure will be taken advantage of by those in the trade.

2e. A RULING REGARDING LOCAL BUYERS

Employees of our Division in potato shipping sections may be asked whether local buyers, operating with large factors in the deal on a joint-account or brokerage basis, are required to have licenses under the P.A.C. Act. The answer is that they must have such licenses. It is obvious that those working on a brokerage basis must do so, and the Solicitor of the Department has held that those working on joint account are also subject to license. Buyers who work on a straight salary basis need not be licensed. Buyers who work on a combined salary and brokerage basis need not be licensed, if the arrangement is such that the buyer is a bona fide employee. The Department considers that an arrangement whereby the buyer is paid $1 per month and so much a car brokerage does not constitute him a bona fide employee and he is subject to license. Whether or not a buyer is a bona fide employee will have to be determined by an examination of the facts in each individual case.

3e. HEARINGS TO BE HELD UNDER THE P.A.C. ACT

The following schedule of public hearings under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act has been announced by the Department:

Date	Hour	Place	Names of Parties
Sept. 8	10 A.M.	Providence, R.I.	Richman & Samuels, Inc., vs. M.Shore & Co., Inc.
Sept. 9	2 P.M.	Providence, R.I.	C. M. Holtzinger vs. H. Falk & Co. and H. Falk & Co. vs. E. P. Gearin Brokerage Co.
Sept. 11	10 A.M.	Boston, Mass.	Agricultural Exchange vs. B. & D. Fruit Co.
Sept. 12	10 A.M.	Everett, Mass.	Agricultural Exchange vs. Gerrardo Riccio.
Sept. 14	10 A.M.	New York City	Botetourt Packing Assn., Inc., vs. The S. A. Gerrard Co. of New York.
Sept. 15	10 A.M.	New York City	Wenatchee District Cooperative Assn. vs. Sam Berkowitz.
Sept. 16	10 A.M.	New York City	(same as just mentioned above)
Sept. 18	10 A.M.	Buffalo, N.Y.	Barker-Miller Distributing Co. vs. B. Berman.
Sept. 21	10 A.M.	Scranton, Pa.	Elmer G. Porter vs. Lackawanna Fruit & Produce Co.
Sept. 22	10 A.M.	Scranton, Pa.	F. W. Shields Co., Inc., vs. Scranton Produce Co.
Sept. 23	2 P.M.	Hazleton, Pa.	H. S. Denison & Co., vs. J. P. Krapf and Son.

4e. PRODUCE FIRMS FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING P.A.C. ACT

The Secretary of Agriculture has recently issued orders in connection with three complaints on which hearings were held under the P.A.C. Act.

The first of these orders gives the decision reached in the complaint of Elmer G. Porter of Caywood, N.Y., vs. J. Thomas Burnett of Richmond, Va., and a counter complaint filed by Burnett against Porter. This complaint involved a car of grapes sold by Porter to Burnett in September, 1930. Upon arrival of the car in Richmond, the respondent rejected it on the grounds that the grapes contained therein did not comply with the terms of the contract. The claimant then sold the grapes for the account of the respondent and filed a complaint under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, alleging unjustified rejection and claiming damages in the sum of $127.55. Burnett in turn filed a complaint against Porter, alleging failure to deliver in accordance with the terms of the contract. The two complaints were consolidated and the hearing on both of them was held at Richmond, Va.

The Secretary of Agriculture found that the grapes in this shipment did comply with the terms of the contract; that the respondent refused to accept them without reasonable cause; that the claimant should be awarded damages against the respondent in the total sum of $127.55, and that the facts constituting such rejection without reasonable cause should be published by law.

The second case in which an order has been issued also involved a Richmond firm,- the Richmond Fruit and Produce Company. This complaint was

(continued over)

filed as a result of an investigation made by O. N. Harsha (of the Regulatory Branch) regarding a complaint made by the Connecticut Valley Onion Company against Burton and Briel, Inc., involving three carloads of onions, and in connection therewith it was necessary to check the records of the Richmond Fruit and Produce Company.

The Secretary found that the Richmond Fruit and Produce Company "failed and neglected to keep such accounts and records with respect to the purchases above-described as fully and correctly to disclose the actual transactions, in that payments made by the respondent to Burton and Briel, Inc., were made in lump sums upon an open and running account, and an examination of its records would not disclose to what specific purchase any particular partial payment so made was applied."

The Secretary further found that "it was respondent's practice to make partial payments to Burton and Briel, Inc., from time to time but neither would an examination of the check by which such partial payments were made, or an examination of any other record entry made, disclose to what specific purchases such partial payments applied."

The Secretary decided that the respondent violated Section 9 of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and ordered that the facts and circumstances comprising the violation of such section by the respondent be published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, as authorized by law.

5e. HELP TO LOCATE SAM COHEN

The Regulatory Branch desires to locate Sam Cohen, who formerly was in business at Chicago as Sam Cohen & Company, Inc., No. 1 South Water Market. It has not been possible to get any response from Mr. Cohen and it is not known whether he is still in Chicago or has gone elsewhere. Anyone having information regarding his present address should communicate with Mr. Spilman, in this Division.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

OFFICE NOTES:-

Mr. Sherman, as well as Mr. Pailthorp, attended the picnic, given by former Governor Harry F. Byrd in Virginia last Saturday. In spite of rainy weather, they report an attendance exceeding 1,000 persons. Mr. Pailthorp discussed the U.S. grades for apples at this gathering.

J. W. Park is spending today in Baltimore, securing information of importance in the revision of the bulletin on fruit and produce auctions.

A. R. Spiker, of the Transportation Unit in Washington, expects to leave next week on a midwestern trip in the interest of reports for various divisions of the Bureau. He may be away for about three weeks. J. G. Cross is expected back about September 1 from his trip in the interest of reports from railroads.

Robert Bier spent most of this week at points in eastern Maryland and in Delaware, in connection with the inspection work on cannery tomatoes.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):-

O. N. Harsha, of the Regulatory Branch, and C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's Office, plan to leave Washington next Monday and make investigations under the P.A.C. Act in Philadelphia, Trenton and New York. Conferences also will be held with U.S. district attorneys in that territory.

C. D. Shirley, who has been assisting with inspection work in New York City and Boston during the past few months, stopped at the Washington office the middle of this week, en route to his headquarters at Houston, Texas. The Houston inspection office will be reopened next week, and definite advice as to the office address will be given in the next issue of the D.L.

R. L. Sutton was in the Washington office a few days this week, after having been on vacation. He has now proceeded to Rochester, N.Y., where he will be in charge of the market reporting work this fall and winter. First reports of the season will be issued at Rochester on September 1.

Miss Mary Cecilia Daly has been associated with the Market News Service in the Rochester office for quite a number of years. Announcement has been received of her marriage on August 24 to Mr. Joseph H. Bayer, at Geneva, N.Y. Congratulations and best wishes are extended the bride and groom.

F. S. Kinsey arrived in Washington this morning from Atlanta, where he had been substituting for J. H. Hoover. He will proceed on Saturday evening to Boston, Mass., which will be his headquarters during the period that he serves as Federal Supervising Inspector of shipping-point work in the New England States. This new service will be inaugurated on apples next week. Mr. Kinsey can be addressed at our Boston inspection office. He will first conduct a training-class for licensed inspectors at some convenient point near Boston, before beginning active work on apple shipments.

W. A. Cannon, Director of Markets in the Texas State Department of Agriculture, and H. T. Longino, Federal Supervising Inspector for Texas, are expected to come to Washington next Monday for a conference regarding the standardization and inspection work in their State.

M. A. Russell has completed his supervision of peach inspections at shipping points in Illinois and has returned to his headquarters in Chicago. Low prices hastened the closing of the Illinois peach deal. Telegrams regarding further inspections of these peaches should be addressed to Chicago office.

It is understood that the peach inspection work in southern Indiana has also been finished and that J. E. Dickerson, Supervising Inspector, has transferred his field headquarters to Warsaw, Ind., during the onion season.

W. F. Plummer, in charge of the Boston inspection office, is on annual leave from August 26 to September 15.

F. M. Lyle, of the Kansas City inspection office, will attend the meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, at Columbia, this Saturday and will give an address regarding the U.S. grades for apples.

(over)

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):-

J. D. Hamilton will close the market news field station at Walla Walla, Washington, this Saturday and return to Portland, Oregon, from which point he will go on a week's vacation. Beginning September 8, Mr. Hamilton will make numerous field trips throughout the Pacific Northwest, for the purpose of checking the f.o.b. reports as published by the Spokane office in the annual news service on northwestern apples. This field work was handled in recent years by A. E. Prugh and R. H. Lamb.

H. S. Stiles, of the Boston market news office, will begin his vacation next week. J. B. Owens, who was substituting at Pittsburgh, has now gone to Boston to relieve Mr. Stiles.

A. M. McDowell, who substituted for A. B. Farlinger in Cleveland, will proceed to the Chicago office by Monday and remain there until he opens the field station on potatoes at Waupaca, Wis., about September 14.

V. V. Westgate will return to Omaha from his vacation by next Tuesday, andthen D. C. Beeler, who has been substituting for him, will go to Cleveland, where he will assist with inspections during the absence of Edgar Krumm on 12 days' leave.

V. H. Nicholson has reached Presque Isle, Maine, on his vacation trip and will make arrangements for the opening of the potato office there by September 10.

H. F. Willson, who has been substituting in the Cincinnati market news office, expects to begin his own vacation on September 4.

The LOUISVILLE, KY., office will move on September 1 to Room 303, Coleman Building, at 309 South Third Street. Please make this correction on all copies of the Inspection Service address list. The Canned Goods Grading Service will be located jointly in these new quarters.

MONDAY, September 7, being Labor Day, will be observed as a holiday in all offices everywhere.

PLEASE REMEMBER that no Division Letter will be published next week. The next issue will be mailed on Friday, September 11.

6c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following names should be added to the List of Past-Due Accounts:

N. P. Shapiro,	534 Water Street, Bridgeport, Conn.	$1.00
Wade and Newton,	San Benito, Texas	$10.66
G. A. Dewald & Co.,	13 Produce Place, Atlanta, Ga.	$4.00
Bateman Fruit Exchange,	Macon, Ga.	$5.00

The following names should be taken off the List of Past-Due Accounts:

Rio Grande Produce Co.,	Monte Vista, Colo.	$4.00
Connecticut Valley Onion Co.,	South Deerfield, Mass.	$5.00

- R.C.B.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 36 September 11, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

NO DIVISION LETTER WAS ISSUED FOR SEPTEMBER 4

1a. A VALUABLE REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN PORTO RICO

A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector in Porto Rico, sent the following important information in a letter of August 21 from San Juan:-

"The Fruit Growers Improvement Committee has just completed an estimate of the pineapple and citrus crops on this island. They estimate that there will be shipped between now and the first of January 11,500 boxes of cultivated oranges, 298,080 boxes of grapefruit, 64,550 crates of pineapples, and approximately 50,000 boxes of old-crop grapefruit.

"According to detailed estimates of growers, we probably will inspect about 225,000 boxes of new-crop grapefruit, approximately 40,000 boxes of old grapefruit (if it is shipped), and 6,500 boxes of oranges. We may also inspect approximately 30,000 crates of pineapples. We are now working on one grower's shipments, whose estimate is 9,500 crates, and we shall start work for another grower next month, who will have about 10,000 crates.

Graded Fruit Bringing a Premium

"It will be of interest to you to know that the average auction price of all grapefruit for the month of July, 1931, in New York or Liverpool,-which was packed to the U.S. standards,- was 32¢ a box higher than the price of stock that failed to meet the requirements of the grade or that was not packed according to U.S. standards.

"There will be about three more reasonably-heavy shipments of old-crop grapefruit, after which the new crop will start to move in considerable volume. There are a few shipments each week of the new crop, but active movement will not occur until around September 1, at which time the shipments should increase to about 15,000 boxes a week.

"The quality of this new fruit is exceedingly good; it is clean, smooth, and generally thin-skinned. It will be moved as fast as possible, because this fruit is mostly large-sized and, from past experience, growers have found that it soon becomes over-sized and nosey. I expect that 150,000 to 200,000 boxes of this fruit will be shipped during the months of September and October.

"The original agreement entered into between the Improvement Committee and the growers, for inspection of citrus, only covered inspections until the first of September. But, with one exception, every grower has signified an intention to continue with the fall crop. I cannot help but feel gratified with this attitude of the growers regarding inspection and, with the exceptionally good quality of fruit they have this fall, I believe that we shall accomplish the maximum amount of good.

Vegetables Being Planted

"There will be considerable planting of vegetables this fall, especially cucumbers and peppers, and from present indications we shall have about 90% of the tonnage to inspect. The total shipments of winter crops will run from a

minimum of 75,000 packages to a maximum of 150,000 packages, all depending upon growing and marketing conditions.

"Citrus and vegetable growers all feel that there will be sufficient tonnage to warrant the continuance of inspection service here the year round. Starting the first of February, there will be heavy pineapple inspection, as about 25% of the acreage will be 'fired.' A 'fired' pineapple is one that has been covered by cheese-cloth and charcoal burners placed between the rows. These charcoal burners are kept burning about three weeks and this causes the pineapples to mature from four to seven weeks earlier than normally. This can be done at the cost of approximately $100 an acre, and growers, who in the past have 'fired' part of their acreage, have found that the high prices of early pineapples warrant this expense."

2a. CANNERY TOMATOES BEING BOUGHT BY GRADE

Seven times as many acres of tomatoes are under contract to be purchased on a grade basis by the Pennsylvania canneries this season than a year ago, according to George A. Stuart, Director of the Pennsylvania State Bureau of Markets. The total acreage under contract is estimated at 1,500. The Bureau will place inspectors at 11 plants this season, compared with 4 in 1930.

The purchase of raw products for canning in Pennsylvania is rapidly being placed on a quality basis, Mr. Stuart states. This graded system of selling enables growers to secure premium prices for high-quality goods. Thus a real incentive to produce the best is provided.

Last year, approximately 44,000,000 pounds of canning crops, including apples, grapes, sour cherries, snap beans and tomatoes, were purchased under State inspection.

3a. AMENDMENT No. 3 UNDER P.A.C. ACT

With this D.L., each technical employee in the field will receive a mimeographed copy of Amendment No. 3 to Service and Regulatory Announcements No. 121, relating to the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. This should be carefully read by all employees.

4a. OFFICIAL STANDARDS FOR APPLES DISTRIBUTED

During the past week, there has been mailed to all interested offices of this Division,- both inspection and market-news offices,- a supply of the printed Official Standards for Apples, designated as Amendment No. 1 to Service and Regulatory Announcements No. 93.

If additional copies are needed by any office, they should be requested at once. It is desired to give these revised apple grades wide circulation.

5a. INCREASED VALUE OF FRUIT EXPORTS

The press of September 5 carried the following news item:- "American exports of fruit for the year ended June 30 showed a decided increase as a result of short apple and pear crops in Europe and greater sales efforts. The Department of Commerce announced yesterday that fresh fruits exported during the year totaled $66,529,000 in value, as against $50,468,000 the previous year, while dried fruits totaled $29,661,000, compared with $28,622,000."

6a. TRAVEL BY MEANS OF PERSONALLY-OWNED AUTOMOBILES

Particular attention is called to Par. 12 (a) Standardized Government Travel Regulations, which permits the use of personally-owned automobiles on a mileage basis, provided such mode of travel and the rate per mile has been authorized. Suspensions from expense accounts will be avoided if each field man will, before using his personally-owned automobile for official travel, make sure that such use has been authorized. If not, he should advise the Washington office at once, in order that the necessary letter of authorization may be drawn as of a date prior to the date of travel.

7a. REQUISITIONS FOR ENVELOPES

Many of the requests for white franked envelopes, being received from field offices, specify 4-1/8 x 9-1/2 inch envelopes, stock item No. 790. We have been requested by the Post Office Department to use, whenever possible, the 3-7/8 x 8-7/8 inch white franked envelopes, stock item No. 755, as this sized envelope can be handled by the Post Office sorting machines, whereas the larger size requires special handling. In ordering envelopes in the future, please consider carefully whether or not your needs really require the larger-sized stock.

8a. HELP TO LOCATE COLYER RICHARDSON

The Regulatory Branch desires to locate Colyer Richardson, whose last-known address was Pahokee, Florida, where he probably operates only in the winter and spring. Any employee having information regarding Mr. Richardson's present address should communicate with H. A. Spilman, in this Division.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. PURCHASE OF ADDRESSOGRAPH PLATES AND ACCESSORIES

Reference is made to the item on page 4 of The B.A.E. News for Aug. 18, 1931, entitled: "Procuring Addressograph Accessories and Supplies by Field Offices." This item is being construed by some of our field men to mean that hereafter all addressograph plates and accessories should be secured locally from the Addressograph Company. The item is not intended to direct such purchases but refers only to purchases now being made locally by offices located at points distant from Washington. Offices which have heretofore secured addressograph plates and accessories from Washington should continue to do so.

2b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

During the past week, the following additional summaries of field deals have been distributed:-

"Marketing Western New York Celery, 1930-31 Season," by R. L. Sutton and A. L. Thomas.

"Marketing Cumberland-Shenandoah-Potomac District Apples, 1930 Season," by V. H. Nicholson.

3b. CROP AND MARKET NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK

Below is the first regular report of the season from the Rochester office. It was submitted by R. L. Sutton. The report is given at length in this issue of the D.L., even including f.o.b. prices, etc., but future reports may be slightly abbreviated, to save space:-

"The movement of cabbage from this territroy has assumed a greater volume than any other commodity so far this season. The dealers find it very difficult to sell cars f.o.b. shipping points. The distribution has been fairly widespread, but many of the shipments represent cars consigned or shipped joint-account. Some shippers are buying from growers only upon receipt of orders and, at present, values to growers are ranging $6-$7 bulk per ton. Carlot wire-order sales were made in a limited way on Tuesday (Sept. 8) at $9-$10, with stock packed in 90-pound sacks realizing $11-$14 per ton. The sacked cabbage averages mostly medium size, 2 to 5 pounds, and is generally trimmed more closely than the bulk stock. Dealers are reporting considerable damage being done by worms.

"The harvesting of the early varieties of celery is somewhat behind that of the corresponding time last season. Due to a shrap reduction in the planting of close-culture celery, yields and volume of movements are being curtailed. The entire crop for up-State New York is estimated at 5,250 acres, or 400 greater than the 1930 acreage. The injury resulting from activity of the tarnish plant bug is causing closer stripping and grading. Few cars of this commodity will pass inspection as U.S. No. 1 stock on account of the insect stings. The market is holding firmly for good stock, a top of $1.75 being reached yesterday for crates of 4 to 5 dozen stalks. The more common pack is running 5 to 6 dozens, and values for these sizes have rarely exceeded $1.50 for carloads of two-thirds crates at shipping points. Two cars of these sizes of U.S. No. 1 grade brought $1.65 on Tuesday. Movement into storage has not yet begun and probably will not assume any importance until the crop of Golden Self-Blanching has reached maturity.

"The demand for onions is limited. Sizes are generally smaller this year, with set stock comprising most of the movement at this time. Shipments are made at present mostly in 50-pound sacks. F.o.b. prices are ranging 85¢-$1 for onions running 50% to 75% two inches and larger.

"Carrots have shown very little activity, a few cars of rough stock in bushels selling at 40¢-45¢ and 100-pound sacks around 65¢. It is a little too early to predict what the winter months have in store for the carrot market, but a pessimistic feeling is very prevalent. The New York crop, however, is forecast at only 832,000 bushels, compared with 1,254,000 last season.

"Harvesting of the Bartlett pear crop is about completed. There has been a heavy movement to storage, and growers and dealers are rather inclined to hold for slightly higher prices. Very few sales are being made at present. Some cars are being consigned for both domestic and foreign trade. The total New York pear crop is going to show a sharp reduction under that of last year, and there will be a heavy percentage of No. 2 stock.

"Apples are moving in light volume, an active movement into consumption not being expected until the later part of September. The early varieties now being shipped are meeting with a very slow demand, sales being hard to complete even at extraordinarily low prices. Such varieties as Wealthy and Maiden Blush are being offered at 65¢-75¢ per bushel of U.S. No. 1 stock. Baldwins are expected to show a greater production this season than last.

"The harvesting of Elberta peaches has begun. On September 8, seven cars were shipped, and it is expected that the movement will increase rapidly. Prices are discouragingly low. We have no record of a carlot sale thus far, but sales to truckers have ranged 50¢-60¢ per bushel. Carlot sales are unlikely to exceed those made direct to truckers. The crop is reported about the same as last season, when peach shipments by rail and boat from this State filled approximately 2,300 cars. Distribution to middlewestern points will be more difficult to effect this season, because crops in that territory are more nearly normal this year. Last season, Chicago served as a good receiver of New York peaches, but this was occasioned by the complete failure of the Illinois crop." (Rochester, N.Y., Sept. 9)

4b. BOUNTIFUL CROPS OF FRUIT IN MICHIGAN

R. E. Keller wrote as follows from Benton Harbor, Mich., on August 29:-

"Michigan has the largest crop of fruit this year of any season since the bumper crop of 1926. The August 1 estimate places the apple crop 55% larger than in 1930 and 34% greater than the five-year average; peaches 179% larger than the 1930 harvest and 88% above average; pears 17% lighter than last season but equal to the previous five-year average, and grapes 25% less than the huge 1930 crop but 5% larger than the previous five-year average. Taken as a whole, the fruit crop is exceptionally heavy and, in face of the present low purchasing power and decreased demand, the market situation is very poor.

"Michigan had a much larger crop of Duchess apples this year than last; yet only 62 cars have moved to date, as compared with 266 a year ago. Most of the Duchess crop in the northern counties was abandoned because of the almost complete lack of demand and competition from other low-priced fruits. A portion of the Duchess crop near Benton Harbor was disposed of through trucking outlets over the local cash market, but at discouragingly low prices. A better situation is anticipated for the fall apples, as soon as the weather turns a little cooler and huge supplies of peaches get out of the way.

"The early peaches have been meeting the same discouraging results as summer apples. Fine Elbertas from Illinois at extremely low prices have kept the poorer carrying early varieties from Michigan off the larger markets. Most of the early Michigan peaches have moved into near-by local markets, with a few being trucked into Chicago. South Havens, wagonloads cash to growers over the Benton Harbor cash market, started at $1 per bushel, but soon dropped to 50¢. The Elbertas, which constitute most of the commercial crop, are expected to start about September 1, with the peak about the 12th or 15th of the month. The quality is fine and a general rain over the State on Friday night should give good size to the peaches. A heavy wind, accompanying the rain, was reported to have done some damage to pears and apples, but very little damage to peaches.

"The pear deal is in a much better situation than apples or peaches, even though the crop is generally light, as the stock is moving at fair prices.

"The early varieties of grapes suffered severe reverses from frost this spring. Concords will have a much better yield than the early varieties. However, the harvest is not expected to be as large as the 1930 crop. Quality appears to be good and the size large, because of the lighter sets."

THE FORECAST OF APPLE PRODUCTION has been increased to 223,000,000 bushels, as against 164,000,000 last season. The commercial apple crop may total about 39,000,000 barrels, or fully 5,000,000 more than in 1930.

5b. CALIFORNIA GRAPE MOVEMENT INCREASING

A. E. Prugh sent the following report from Fresno on August 31:-

"Shipments of grapes increased much faster than expected during the latter part of August, on account of another heat wave that sent the mercury up to 110 degrees. On account of softening of the fruit, many growers were forced either to ship the grapes or put them on the trays for raisins. There is a rather firm feeling on raisins, because of the shortage and the fact that last season's crop is already sold. Some estimates of the raisin crop are as low as 125,000 tons delivered.

"Even though the grape crop is light, shippers have just about given up hope of any high prices this season. They expect some demand for juice grapes with the cooler weather, but not much speculative buying. One shipper told me that eastern receivers had been misled so many times in the past, by the cry of 'wolf' or grape-shortage, that, when the 'wolf' is really here this season, they refuse to believe it.

"With the exception of two or three days recently, the local f.o.b. demand has been very light. Speculators have not been in the deal, most of the f.o.b. sales being to small markets on cars of mixed varieties. Trading has been so slow that it has been difficult to quote a market price. And yet, during the past two weeks, grapes bought f.o.b. and sold on the auctions would have made money.

"A comparison of total auction sales and weighted averages for the weeks ending August 28 and August 21, 1931, and August 29, 1930, follows:-

	Thompsons	Malagas	Red Malagas	Tokays	Ribiers
Week ending August 28, 1931 -					
Packages	108,405	83,542	14,178	31,203	10,739
Average	$1.69	$1.54	$2.00	$2.31	$2.08
Week ending August 21, 1931 -					
Packages	113,315	48,800	28,337	8,834	13,758
Average	$1.49	$1.56	$2.06	$2.18	$2.02
Week ending August 29, 1930 -					
Packages	187,378	110,882	31,277	5,263	14,976
Average	$1.24	$1.20	$1.71	$1.91	$1.94

"So far, there has been practically no demand for juice stock, a few Zinfandels selling at $32.50-$35 per ton. For the same period in 1930, 1929, 1928 and 1927, the prices were $37.50-$45; $52.50-$57.50; $45-$50 and $57.50-$67.50, respectively.

"Variety inspections for the week ending August 25 were : Malagas 28.1%; Thompsons 12.7%; Tokays 19.1%, Zinfandels 25.8%, other 14.3%. Practically all of the inspected Thompsons and Malagas graded U.S. No. 1; Tokays 92.1% U.S. No. 1 and Zinfandels 80.5% U.S. No. 1."

6b. INTERESTING CROPS NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, wrote the following report about August 26:-

"Canners of vegetables are operating with more confidence in the market future, in view of the expected shortage in the crops of peas, string beans, tomatoes and most other vegetables except sweet corn. Trade opinion indicates steady or perhaps slightly rising prices. Fruit canners are making a determined effort to keep the pack down to the probable needs of the market.

Cannery operators in the Yakima and Wenatchee valleys have been forced to bid slightly higher prices for Bartlett pears, as picking has progressed. The production in Washington is not as high as earlier estimates indicated, and cannery prices have advanced from a basis of $20 per ton of No. 1 grade fruit to $30-$33, currently being bid.

"The market for packed pears is showing a firmer tendency, with sales of Fancy Bartletts from Yakima and Wenatchee within a range of 95¢-$1.05 per box. Trading is slightly more draggy in the Extra Fancy grade but $1.15-$1.20 per box is being realized, with an occasional car as high as $1.25. Rogue River shippers are holding their packed Bartletts for higher prices, with $1.60 and $1.35 for Extra Fancy and Fancy grades respectively.

"Apple exporters are entering the 1931 season with the heaviest preseason booking of orders since 1928. Demand from the Scandinavian countries is especially good but, largely due to unfavorable economic conditions, Germany has not been the source of much inquiry. France is buying some winter pears from the Northwest.

"The domestic demand for apples so far has been slow, Delicious, Jonathans and Winesaps scarcely receiving any inquiry. However, the crop of Winter Bananas, when they were finally ready to move, met an active demand, and shippers are hoping that similar developments will take place as the season for using other varieties approaches. Prospects for a free movement of apples into export channels also are contributing hope to the apple situation. The prices are low but shippers are determined to give good value, and 5-tier Jonathans for seasonal shipment, mostly into export, are being quoted within a range of $1.10-$1.15 per box of Extra Fancy grade. Most sales of large-sized Winter Bananas, generally for domestic consumption, range $1-$1.25 per box of Extra Fancy grade."

On September 3, Mr. Hall added the following comments for the Northwest:

"Consumers have rallied to the support of eastern Washington peach growers to a commendable extent and have used liberal quantities of excellent-quality peaches during the past week. Prices have been very low, nice Elbertas ruling 40¢-50¢ per box on the Coast markets.

"The vegetable movement from western Washington continues active, although green peas and Iceberg lettuce have largely given way in favor of cabbage, cauliflower and celery. Finding a market for these products is a problem which is being partially met by filling mixed cars. For such mixed shipments, f.o.b. quotations on crated celery, 2 to 3 dozen stalks, are within a range of $1.50-$1.60; cauliflower 75¢-80¢ per pony crate, and cabbage generally around $35 per ton, crated. Some Iceberg lettuce is also available, for which shippers are realizing $2-$2.25 per crate. Shippers are mostly of the opinion that about 75 cars of cauliflower could be shipped, if a demand develops, and celery is also plentiful. Both items are showing excellent quality."

7b. HIGH PRAISE GIVEN OUR SPOKANE REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Lola B. Gerry, in charge of the Spokane office, has been connected with the Market News Service since 1917. Page 3 of The B.A.E. News for September 1 carried an extensive article regarding the efficient service being rendered by Mrs. Gerry in her present position. In this instance, she was commended most highly for promptly furnishing a detailed report on apples to the managing secretary of an important growers' association at Wenatchee.

- B. C. BOREE, Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P. O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 28	Sept. 19
			Peaches	Sept. 8	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sep. 14	Oct. 24
			Onions	Sep. 14	Oct. 24
			Potatoes	Oct. 7	Oct. 24
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears	Sept. 2	Nov. 7
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches	Sept.10	Oct. 3
			Grapes	Sep. 23	Oct. 31
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept.10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept.14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA.	835	R. M. Peterson	Apples	Sept.14	Oct. 31
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept.17	May 7
The following station closed on date indicated:					
ROCKY FORD, COLO.	821	R. G. Risser	Cants.	Aug. 19	Sept. 10

**State cooperating.

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
W. D. Hull in Chicago
H. F. Willson on leave
J. B. Owens in Boston
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING EXPORT FORM CERTIFICATES

Last year the Export Form certificate was issued on "unclassified" lots of apples which did not show more than 10% wormy fruit. This year the tolerance for worms in U.S. Grade No. 1 is 5% or one-half of the total tolerance of 10% for all defects. This limits the tolerance for worms to 5% in such "unclassified" fruit for the issuance of the Export Form certificate, and when the wormy fruit is im excess of 5% the Export Form shall be refused. The same tolerance applies to pears for the issuance of the Export Form certificate.

2c. MAKE DIRECT STATEMENTS OF GRADE

The following form of grade statement has been made im the past in certain districts: "Apples show excessive russeting but meet remaining requirements of U.S. Grade No. 1." Such a statement is not clearly understood by the trade and is likely to be misused. Therefore, it has been decided to discontinue the use of such statements and make either positive or negative grade statements. For example: "Lot grades U.S. No. 1" or "Lot fails to grade U.S. No. 1, etc."

3c. BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

We have been advised that the A. E. Marsh Company, of Yakima, Wash., has been declared bankrupt. Any unpaid bills against this concern should be forwarded to Washington for collection.

4c. INSPECTION NOTES FROM INDIANA

On September 3, J. E. Dickerson wrote the following letter from his temporary field headquarters at Vincennes, Ind.:-

"We shll complete the peach inspection work in Indiana by September 5. After that date and until about October 10, I shall be working on cannery tomatoes with headquarters at the Indianapolis office. Headquarters for the onion inspection work will continue to be at Warsaw.

"The quality of Indiana peaches has been very good, but harvesting has been difficult for the past week, due to unusually heavy rains in this section. Monday and Tuesday, over four inches of rain fell in the Decker area. Parasites have almost completely controlled the Oriental Peach Moth this season, and the new zinc sulphate and lime spray, developed here for the control of Bacterial Spot, has proven very efficient.

"We intend to start the inspection of Michigan onions by the first of next week. That work also will be handled through the Warsaw, Ind., office. The Indiana onion crop is shorter than originally anticipated. Inspectors report not over 275 cars for Steuben County, previously the heaviest shipping county in the State. Sizes are exceptionally small, many cars having not over 15% or 20% of stock over two inches in diameter."

SWEET-POTATO PRODUCTION this season is forecast at nearly 84,000,000 bushels, compared with 62,200,000 in 1930 and a five-year average of 80,300,000.

5c. SUCCESSFUL SEASON IN SEBASTOPOL APPLE DISTRICT

The following item has been taken from California Inspectors' Notes, issued on August 21 at Sacramento:-

The Sebastopol office was closed this week after a very successful season both for the Shipping-Point Inspection Service and for the growers and shippers. The foreign demand for apples was exceptionally heavy this year, which resulted in good prices, particularly when the general financial condition of the fruit industry is considered. Out of 1,671 carloads shipped, 1,613 were inspected. Of these, 1,000 cars bore the Export Form certificates. The following tabulation shows the number of boxes for the various grades:

Fancy.....	1,090,568	Combination Fancy and C..	15,185
C Grade.....	16,571	C Grade loose.....	21,162
		Total:	1,143,486 bxs.

6c. DISAPPOINTING POTATO SEASON IN KENTUCKY

A letter of August 28 from T. C. Curry, at the Louisville, Ky., office contained the following information:-

"We shall possibly have one or two additional weeks of moderate potato shipments, after which time this deal will be practically finished. Heavy rains this week have curtailed shipments. Our heaviest week to date was 124 cars. To date we have inspected around 350 cars, which is a poor showing, considering the prospects in early July. I believe that no less than 150 cars were lost, due to severe heat about that time. Growers are naturally dissatisfied with the low prices they have been receiving.

Another letter, dated September 4, included the following information:-

"The shipping-point inspection work here is rapidly drawing to a close. In June, prospects looked bright for a good crop of excellent quality. The heat and drought in July not only cost the growers many carloads, but scab and wire-worm also developed in many fields. I venture to say that there were more off-grade cars shipped than U.S. No. 1's."

7c. CALIFORNIA TOMATOES FROM COAST DISTRICTS

California Inspectors' Notes dated August 28 contained the following brief report: "A few shippers started loading tomatoes this week along the Coast, and by the latter part of next week all will be shipping. A few fields show mosaic, but most fields are in very good condition. Tomatoes also are being inspected in the San Jose, Salinas and Watsonville districts."

8c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following names should be taken off the List of Past-Due Accounts:

Trunkey-Wolfe Company,	Wenatchee, Wash.	$37.00
Wade and Newton,	San Benito, Texas	$10.66
G. A. Dewald & Company,	Atlanta, Ga.	$4.00

The following names should be added to the List of Past-Due Accounts:

Frank Leonard,	66 Harrison St., New York City	$28.00
Western Produce Company,	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	$5.00

9c. INSPECTION NOTES FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Under date of August 25, F. E. Bailey, at Yakima, Wash., wrote the following interesting letter:-

"You may be interested in knowing that the first car of tomatoes to be shipped under certification from western Washington is being loaded this week at Midlakes, a spur near Bellevue on the eastern shore of Lake Washington almost within sight of Seattle. I understand that about 200 acres of tomatoes are planted there this year. This stock is of the Globe type and has possibilities for grading out better quality than some of the eastern Washington districts which still persist in mixing flat-type seed in their plantings.

"If western Washington tomatoes prove to carry well in transit and an acceptable pack is prepared, there is practically no limit to the quantity which can be produced for August and September shipment, as there are thousands of acres of land which can be given over to the production of this commodity in western Washington.

"Another point of interest which I noted in western Washington last week was the activity of the canneries in the north Puget Sound country, where bean canning is at its height. Each cannery which I visited had its snipping machines running 24 hours a day and, in addition, had large crews of women at benches, hand-snipping the overflow which the machines could not handle. Kentucky Wonder is the variety generally used for canning, although one cannery uses some of the Blue Lake variety.

"At the present time, the State Department of Agriculture has four men in this area, giving their entire time to receiving-platform inspection for canneries. These men grade the bean deliveries, as well as the blackberries which are still being received, and occasionally they grade beets which are also packed in small quantities. In addition, two or three other men are spending a few hours each day on this work.

"Next week some of the canneries expect to begin packing carrots and will also increase their pear canning activity, which in several cases has been delayed because of the beans which the canneries are under contract to accept. Incidentally, the two large canneries at Yakima and one at Wenatchee in eastern Washington are now running almost to capacity on Bartlett pears."

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

IF ANYONE FAILED TO GET A COPY OF THE DIVISION LETTER TWO WEEKS AGO,- DATED AUGUST 28,- HE SHOULD REQUEST A COPY FROM WASHINGTON.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Oct. 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Sept. 20
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House, (Box 190) Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 7
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Building, Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, Charlottesville, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Apr. 1

REPORTS on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Iowa products..... R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office
Massachusetts onions..... O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Ohio products..... M. W. Baker, Columbus office
Indiana & Michigan onions.... Federal-State Inspection, Warsaw, Ind.
North Dakota potatoes..... R. C. Hastings, State College Sta., Fargo

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. BLUE GOOSE APPLE SPECIFICATIONS OF AMERICAN FRUIT GROWERS WHICH APPLY EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Color Requirements:-

The grade requirements for "Blue Goose - U.S. Fancy" are the same as U.S. Fancy, and "Blue Goose - U.S. No. 1" requirements are the same as U.S. No. 1, except for the following tolerances which apply to both "Blue Goose - U.S. Fancy" and "Blue Goose - U.S. No. 1":

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 5%, by weight, of the apples in any container may be below the requirements for color; nor more than 5%, by weight, of the apples in any container may be below the requirements for defects. In addition, not more than one-half of the percentage allowed, or 2½%, shall be for defects causing serious damage, of which not more than 1% shall be allowed for decay.

The tolerances specified are placed on a container basis. However, any lot of apples shall be considered as meeting the requirements of a specified grade if the entire lot averages within the tolerances specified, provided that no sample from the container in any lot is found to contain more than double the tolerance specified.

The grade requirements of "Blue Goose Combination U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1" are as follows:

"When Blue Goose - Combination U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 apples are packed, at least 50% of the apples in any container shall meet the requirements of Blue Goose - U.S. Fancy. No tolerances are allowed in these specifications other than those provided for in the specifications for Blue Goose-U.S. Fancy and for Blue Goose - U.S. No. 1. No part of any tolerance shall be used to reduce the percentageof apples of the Blue Goose - U.S. Fancy grade required in this combination."

Packing Requirements for All Blue Goose - U.S. Grades

Each package shall be packed so that the apples in the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size, color, and quality of the contents of the package.

Baskets

Apples packed in round stave bushel baskets or tubs shall be tightly ring-faced and packed with sufficient bulge to prevent any appreciable movemwnt of the apples within the container when lidded.

Apples in these packages shall be protected by a 19-inch corrugated cap or pad and shall be attractively ring-faced by the Hiatt or other similar device.

Barrels

Apples in barrels shall be tightly packed. They should be racked often and thoroughly while packing, so that heavy pressing will not be required, and be provided with corrugated caps or pads in each end, to prevent bruising.

All containers must be clean and attractive.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper packing, not more than 5% of the containers in any lot may not meet these requirements. (over)

All packages upon which the Blue Goose label is placed as signifying adherence to these specifications must be covered by a United States inspection certificate, stating they have passed the Blue Goose grade requirements of American Fruit Growers, Inc.

2d. IMPORTANT CHANGES IN WASHINGTON STATE APPLE GRADES

Under date of August 27, George E. Harter, Supervisor of Horticulture, at Olympia, Washington, advised us that, through error, the Orchard Run Grade as printed in their grade pamphlet requires at least 25% Extra Fancy apples. The Combination Grade has been changed so that, when marked "Orchard Run," no percentage of Extra Fancy apples is specified except that it is not permissible to remove any Extra Fancy apples from the lot and pack the remainder as "Orchard Run." The following is the official wording of the Washington Combination Grades for this year:-

"Combination Grades: When Extra Fancy and Fancy apples are packed together, the boxes may be marked 'Combination Extra Fancy and Fancy,' and when Fancy and C grade apples are packed together, the boxes may be marked 'Combination Fancy and C Grade,' but Combination Grades must contain at least 25% of the apples which would be permitted in the higher grades. When Extra Fancy, Fancy and C grade apples are packed together, the boxes must be marked 'Orchard Run' or 'Combination Extra Fancy, Fancy and C Grade,' but any boxes so marked must not contain any fruit that will not meet the requirements of C Grade. In case the boxes are marked 'Combination Extra Fancy, Fancy and C Grade,' they must contain at least 25% Extra Fancy apples, and it shall be unlawful to remove any of the higher grade apples and then pack the remainder as 'Orchard Run' or 'Combination Extra Fancy, Fancy and C. Grade,' except that the larger sizes of all grades may be removed and the rest boxed and marked 'Jumble' or 'Face and Fill,' in addition to the grade mark."

3d. COPIES OF PRIVATE APPLE AND PEAR GRADES DISTRIBUTED FROM YAKIMA

In a recent letter from F. E. Bailey, at the Yakima, Wash., office, he advised that he is mailing directly from his office complete sets of the Washington ~~private~~ apple and pear grades to all the market inspectors. In case any inspector was overlooked in this distribution, he should communicate with Mr. Bailey.

4d. MATERIAL SENT TO INSPECTORS

During the past week, copies of the following were sent to each inspector. If anyone failed to receive his copies, please advise Washington office:

U.S. Standards for Farmers' Stock Runner Peanuts.
U.S. Standards for Spinach (revised)
Check List of U.S. Standards Issued by F. & V. Division.
Virginia Standards for Apples, 1931.
Washington State Grades for Potatoes, Onions, Tomatoes & Asparagus, 1931.
New Hampshire Apple Grades, 1931.

POTATO PRODUCTION for 1931 is now forecast at only 361,000,000 bushels, or 20,000,000 less than the five-year average and 18,000,000 more than 1930.

5d. ENCLOSURES WITH THIS DIVISION LETTER

With this D.L., each inspector will receive the following:

Official Grades for the Standardization of Colorado Fruits and Vegetables, 1931.
Canadian Recommended Rules for Packing Apples in Containers Other than the Standard Box, 1931-32.
Maine Apple Packing Law, 1931.

6d. INSPECTION OF CANNERY TOMATOES IN CALIFORNIA

The following item is copied from California Inspectors' Notes, dated August 28 at Sacramento:-

"R. L. Spangler, of the Grades and Standards Project, Fruit and Vegetable Division, B.A.E., Washington, arrived at Sacramento on August 17 and on the following day, together with W. F. Allewelt, met with the operating committee of the Canners League of California at San Francisco, to discuss the investigational and experimental work to be conducted this season in connection with the application of U. S. grades for cannery tomatoes to growers' deliveries throughout the season at certain plants in California.

"It is anticipated that these tests will be conducted in the San Jose-Santa Clara district, at Oakland, and at Sacramento. Considerable interest was expressed by the canners present at the meeting, some of whom have already had experience in connection with the inspection of growers' deliveries on the basis of U.S. grades at their plants in the State of Utah.

"During the past two weeks Mr. Spangler has been working in cooperation with Captain Everts, in charge of field operations for the Canners League, and Prof. Frank Dixon, Horticulturist of the Canners League, examining early deliveries of tomatoes now being made at some of the canning plants. E. H. Bechis, of the California Federal-State Inspection Service, has been assigned to work with Mr. Spangler on this project. Definite arrangements for the actual inspection work will be consummated in the near future."

7d. AN ATTRACTIVE PIECE OF PUBLICITY

The September, 1931, issue of the Bulletin of the Agricultural Commission, American Bankers Association, contains two whole pages of pictures and text, devoted to the standardization of fruits and vegetables. The photographs were furnished by our Project, and the write-ups were suggested by this office also. The entire arrangement is a very neat and attractive display, calling strong attention to the values of standardization. Copies of this 4-paged bulletin are available to those who may need them.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman gave a radio talk on Thursday about 1 P.M. over Station WRC and the N.B.C. network. His subject was: "Some Conditions in the Fruit and Vegetable Markets."

Visitors in Washington this week included Wm. E. Phillips, inspector at Toledo, Ohio, who is on leave, and S. F. Shreve, of the Baltimore office.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

Wm. E. Leigh, of Mr. Pailthorp's Project in Washington, is passing the cigars and candy this week. A son, William Earl , Jr., arrived in his home on Tuesday morning. Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Leigh.

Guy G. Chase, of Pennsylvania, has been appointed as a Junior Administrative Assistant in connection with work under the P.A.C. Act at the Earle Bldg. in Washington. He is assisting in the Licensing and Recording Section of the Regulatory Branch. Mr. Chase received his public school education at Jamestown, N.Y., and later attended business college. He studied for two years at Purdue University, specializing in civil engineering. From 1920 to 1929, Mr. Chase was president and general manager of the Barshal Company, Cleveland, Ohio, and for the past year or more he has been employed by the Prison Bureau of the U.S. Department of Justice as a consultant and as Assistant Supt. of Federal Prison Camp No. 3.

Robert Bier, of the Washington inspection headquarters, spent a few days last week in the tomato cannery district of Virginia, supervising the inspection work on fresh tomatoes for canning. Today he has gone with S. B. Shaw, of the University of Maryland staff, to Westminster, Md., to address a gathering of Carroll County growers and canners who are interested in the grading service on cannery tomatoes.

Herbert Graff went to Richmond, Va., on Wednesday to inspect a carload of grapes in that market.

Judge R. L. Dillman and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan (stenographer) left Washington on Saturday to attend the several hearings under the P.A.C. Act, which were listed in the schedule on page 519 of the last D.L.

J. W. Dykes, of the Regulatory Branch, was in Baltimore this week, making investigations under the P.A.C. Act.

Brice Edwards, who is doing field work under the P.A.C. Act, is now visiting various shipping points and city markets in Michigan.

Announcement is made of the resignation, effective August 31, of L. H. Newcomer, who had been assisting with the work in the Atlanta office for some months.

J. C. Keller, who has been helping with the market-reporting work in Chicago since his appointment in August, 1930, stopped at the Washington office a few days en route to his new headquarters at Atlanta, where he will assist J. H. Hoover. Mr. Keller arrived in Atlanta today.

W. D. Hull has been assigned to the Chicago office, where he will assist with the news service.

W. E. Harrison, of the Baltimore office, has returned from his leave and R. M. Peterson, who substituted for him, has now gone to Martinsburg, W. Va., where he will operate the news service on apples.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

R. E. Corbin, of the Kansas City market-news office, is visiting potato shipping points in Nebraska this week, in order to make arrangements for f.o.b. reports, which will be included in the daily potato reports as published in the Denver office and elsewhere.

W. D. Googe, who was substituting recently in Kansas City, will return to his headquarters at Fort Worth by the end of this week and will then go on a week's vacation.

V. H. Nicholson opened the news service on Maine potatoes at Presque Isle on Thursday. Sympathy is extended in the death of Mrs. Nicholson's mother, which occurred in Indiana on September 1.

R. G. Risser closed the service on cantaloupes at Rocky Ford, Colo., on Thursday and has proceeded to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he will be in charge of the potato reporting service, beginning next Thursday.

A. M. McDowell has gone from Chicago to Waupaca, Wis., to open the news service on potatoes next Monday, September 14.

G. W. Winfrey completed his personal supervision of shipping-point inspections in Arkansas and returned to his headquarters at New Orleans on September 6. He left inspector H. H. Bailey in charge of the remaining work at Bentonville, Ark., which was expected to last until mid-September.

It is understood that T. W. Ayres has moved his headquarters to Charlottesville, Va., during the supervision of apple inspections at shipping points in that territory.

J. E. Dickerson did not go to Warsaw, Ind., as indicated in the last D.L., but returned to his headquarters at Indianapolis, after completing his shipping-point work on Indiana peaches. From now until about October 10 he will be working on cannery tomatoes in various parts of the State, but can be reached at the Indianapolis office. Reports on Indiana (and Michigan) onion inspections can be had from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Warsaw, Ind.

Inspection reports on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R. C. Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak.

G. Ray Warren, who was in charge of the special certification work on export apples at Montreal, Canada, has now gone to Caribou, Maine, where he will supervise the shipping-point work on potatoes until next spring.

W. W. Anderson, who has been assisting in the New York inspection office, has now taken Mr. Warren's place at Montreal, and can be addressed at Room 204, Board of Trade Bldg. in that city, during the period that special certificates are required on apple exports to Great Britain.

R. H. vonGlahn, after having assisted with New York City inspections for some weeks, will return to his headquarters at Jacksonville, Fla., on Saturday of this week.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

H. H. Henderson, who also was helping with inspection work in New York, returned to Norfolk, Va., on August 31. He is at Nathalie, Va., on vacation during most of the first half of September and will be at his home in Norfolk for the remaining few days of his leave.

W. C. Hackleman, Regional Supervisor of the Inspection Service in New York City, is on vacation until September 17. Bolling Hall, of that office, is taking his leave from September 2 to 19. G. W. Payne, Associate Regional Supervisor, was on vacation during the last half of August.

D. C. Beeler, who has been substituting in the Cleveland inspection office, will proceed to Cincinnati by the 16th, where he will relieve H. A. Bowers, while the latter is on vacation.

W. J. Bertush, who substituted for R. M. Ferguson in Minneapolis the past few weeks, expects to return to his headquarters in Chicago on Wednesday.

M. A. Russell, Associate Regional Supervisor of the Inspection Service in Chicago, reports that 1,200 cars of Illinois peaches were inspected at shipping points this season. Last year the Illinois crop was a failure.

The HOUSTON, TEXAS, inspection office is now located at 1305 Prairie Avenue. Temporary arrangements for mail service have been made at P.O. Box 1944. The office phone number is Preston 4888. Please make note of these changes on the inspectors' address list.

The telephone number at the Boston inspection office has been changed to Hancock 2312 and Hancock 2313. Please note this change on the address list of inspection offices.

The Canned Goods Grading Project:

Washington office quarters of Paul M. Williams, in charge of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Project, and of Loyde M. Billman, assistant, have been moved to Room 203 in the building at 221 Linworth Place; phone No. 1001.

E. P. Bostwick is en route to Chicago, where he will be in charge of the branch office of this Project in that market, effective September 15. He had to stop at Frederick, Md., to inspect about 10 carloads of canned corn, being purchased for a Government department.

Loyde M. Billman has been detailed for the past few days to the General Supply Committee in Washington, to inspect and grade samples of canned goods being purchased for local Government hospitals and other institutions.

The CHICAGO OFFICE of the Canned Goods Grading Project will be located in Room 509 A and B, Mercantile Exchange Bldg., 110 N. Franklin Street. Please make note of this branch office address.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 37 September 18, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. A MOTOR-TRUCK TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW YORK

W. L. Jackson, of the Los Angeles office, submitted the following very interesting report in a letter of September 8:-

"The record for hauling by motor truck doubtless has been broken by a shipment recently made from Los Angeles. A truck and trailer, reported to carry 40,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables, left Los Angeles on Saturday, September 5, bound for New York. This shipment was not in the nature of a commercial venture but more as a trial for the truck and the electrical refrigeration employed. The cargo was composed of donations from southern California producers and shippers. Among these was a box for President Hoover and presents for the mayors of the principal cities through which the truck was scheduled to pass.

"Considerable space was left in the forward part of the truck for a large instrument board which was placed in charge of a highly-trained technical engineer. Apparatus was avialble for recording some 46 operations of the equipment, and data thus obtained will be made available by the Southern California Freight Lines, Ltd., to everyone interested and particularly to truck owners and operators. This is probably the first instance in which electrical refrigeration has been employed in the transportation of fruits and vegetables by motor truck. Both car and trailer were cooled electrically. According to reports, 'dry zone' thistle fluff from Africa was used as insulation between the walls of both truck and trailer.

"Originally the schedule called for completion of the trip within seven days, but I believe that the itinerary has been so arranged that it will be practically impossible to make the trip in so short a time. In any event, the truck and trailer should arrive in New York City early next week."

2a. LIST OF OFFICES OF U.S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The Department of Labor has requested the cooperation of our Department in using the facilities of the U.S. Employment Service as a means for the procurement of all classes of labor not calling for Civil Service requirements. With this Division Letter, each of the branch offices of the Fruit and Vegetable Division in city markets will receive a list of the State headquarters of the U.S. Employment Service. This should be kept for reference and should be used as fully as possible. There is an office in each State.

3a. ANOTHER MARKETING SUMMARY ISSUED

"Marketing Maine Potatoes, 1930-31 Season," is the title of an additional field station summary issued this week. The author is W. D. Hull. A map of Maine on the front cover shows the number of cars of potatoes shipped from each county during the past season.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. VERY LIGHT YIELDS OF POTATOES IN COLORADO

Bryce Morris included the following information in a letter of September 12 from Denver:-

"The potato shipments from Colorado this season will doubtless drop to about half of last year's 18,000 cars. One who is accustomed to the normal good production in the San Luis Valley cannot realize how serious and generally widespread the drought damage is in that section, without actually seeing the district this year. The highest yield reported to date was 60 sacks for market and 13 sacks for seed from ground that normally would produce 300 sacks per acre. Unquestionably many fields will never be harvested on account of low production.

"Colorado has now rolled approximately 800 cars of lettuce, compared with a total of 1,610 for 1930. This year's movement probably will not exceed 900 cars. Shipments of green peas have practically stopped, with this season's movement at 536 cars, compared with a final total of 463 last year. Cauliflower was moving liberally from the San Luis Valley but in small amounts from the Arkansas Valley where hot, dry weather has materially reduced the possible production. Colorado's cabbage crop is not expected to exceed 500 cars, which will be less than half of last year's movement."

2b. IRREGULAR CONDITIONS IN NEBRASKA POTATO DISTRICTS

R. E. Corbin, of the Kansas City office, spent a few days last week in western Nebraska, arranging for f.o.b. reports on potatoes. Below is a part of his report, as submitted to the Washington office in a letter of Sept. 14:-

"The potatoes that are under irrigation in western Nebraska are looking very well as to yield, although the quality is not all that might be hoped for. The acreage was slightly increased over last year, possibly 10%, and the indicated yields are not quite so heavy, so that the estimated shipments are about the same as last season. The dry-land farmers, however, are in difficulty. The season has been abnormally dry and yields are light. In some fields, where we dug several hills of potatoes, we found one good-sized tuber and four or five very small ones to the hill. Local factors are estimating the yields on these dry-land fields at 50 to 75 bushels per acre, with an occasional field running higher. This is especially true in the Alliance and Hemingford sections. Down at Kimball, I probably was in the best fields and was quite amazed at the prospective yield and high quality of the Triumphs. One field, which we inspected thoroughly, will probably run close to 200 bushels per acre, and the potatoes are smooth and very good type Triumphs. The Kimball territory had much more rain during the early part of the season than had Alliance and Hemingford.

"The early stock going to market now is coming out in very indifferent condition, on account of the hot weather and resulting sun-scald, but it is expected that this early stock will clean up this week. Sun-scald is a rather unusual occurrence on Nebraska potatoes, and the farmers are very much surprised and chagrined at the effect it was having on stock being shipped out. Stock that had stood for a day and a half, after being exposed to the extreme heat last week, was showing rapid deterioration."

3b. A RUSH OF PEACH SHIPMENTS FROM MICHIGAN

R. E. Keller sent the following report from Benton Harbor on Sept. 13:-

"The Elberta peach harvest is now at its height, and movement of this crop is absorbing all the time of Michigan shippers and farmers. Apples, grapes, pears and vegetables maturing during the past week have been neglected to attend to the rush of peach harvesting. Unseasonably hot weather all of last week caused the peaches to ripen fast, and, in spite of the diligent efforts of both farmers and shippers, a large portion of the fruit remaining has become soft. The entire Elberta harvest, in both the southern and the northern producing regions, will be practically completed the latter part of this week. Marketing and orderly movement of peaches during the period of September 6 to 12 was seriously curtailed by the two holidays,- Labor Day on Monday and the Jewish holiday on Saturday.

"Returns were consistently low all week, ranging from 75¢, the top f.o.b. price on bushel baskets in carlots, down to low mark of 25¢ cash to growers on the Benton Harbor market. The carlot movement has been light, but truck movement very heavy. A package count shows that the equivalent of 504 carloads was sold over the local cash market to truckers during the past six days.

"Bartlett pears have practically all been harvested and most of the shippers have cleaned up their storage holdings. The crop was light. Harvesting of the light crop of Kieffers will start in the next week or two, and it appears likely, from present advices, that the bulk of this variety will be taken over by local canners.

"Apple harvesting, selling and shipping has been largely postponed because all the farmers have had peaches to get off and most of the fall apples can be harvested later. A few Wealthys have been moving.

"Early varieties of grapes are light and Concords have not started moving in appreciable quantities. Hot weather has ripened the Concords so that they are ready to pick, and this will probably hasten the conclusion of the harvesting season."

4b. NORTHWESTERN NEWS SERVICE APPRECIATED

Two letters, containing unsolicited commendations of the market reports, as published by J. D. Hamilton and B. E. Surry at Portland, have come to our attention. The one is from a young Japanese farmer near Salem, Oregon, who is a graduate of the Oregon State Agricultural College and is now the manager of his father's farming and shipping interests. This letter reads in part as follows:-

> "I am not only interested in your market reports but fully depending on your reports for my vegetable quotation. So far, I have never lost a single copy of report, and frequently I go back and check up the market conditions for a month. Last year I gained lots more knowledge on general conditions of the eastern markets by following the reports and had more returns on my 40 carloads of celery than I expected, even during the slow demand on celery. ..... I have really no words to express my thanks for your prompt and dependable service throughout the year."

Another letter from a distributor at Walla Walla, Wash., commends very highly the market reports on fresh prunes, as published by Mr. Hamilton at that point during August. He says: "The prune deal was handled in a quiet, dignified and efficient manner..... The success of our pooling agreement was due in large measure to your fine cooperation."

5b. A REPORT ON WESTERN NEW YORK CONDITIONS

Below is a condensed report on New York crops, as submitted by R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office, in a letter dated September 15:-

"The apple deal in western New York is slow in getting under way. The early varieties, such as Wealthy, Oldenburg, and Maiden Blush, are being shipped, but the trade response from an f.o.b. buying standpoint is backward. Dealers are quoting and confirming some sales of U.S. No. 1, 2½-inches up, Wealthys at 65¢-70¢ per bushel basket or tub, and 2 3/4-inch Twenty Ounce at 80¢-90¢. Rhode Island Greenings are near the beginning of their harvest period and, although a few quotations have been sent out by the trade, not enough sales at this time have been made to establish a market for this variety.

"The unseasonably hot weather, that has prevailed in western New York for about a week, has rushed to a near completion the harvesting of peaches. Comparatively few cars have moved to market by rail; the bulk of the crop thus far has gone into storage, or been shipped to market by truck or sold locally to consumers. The crops from Illinois, Pennsylvania and Virginia are being depleted, so that storage peaches from New York during the later part of September and early October should meet with a better demand. However, it must be realized that, with a national production of peaches 24,000,000 bushels greater than last season, the people are pretty well fed-up with this fruit. Truckers are taking large quantities of western New York peaches at prices that have held around 50¢ per bushel. Some growers are offering their fruit at 25¢ per bushel to people who will pick the peaches and furnish their own baskets.

"Bartlett pears are now moving entirely from cold storage. Sales are rather scarce, the prevailing price holding mostly around $1.50 per bushel. Storage pears during October should turn out to be fairly good property. The marketing of the grape crop from the Chautauqua-Erie section is expected to be fairly active next week.

"Celery has shown no marked fluctuation in f.o.b. prices during the past week. Best offerings in two-thirds crates rarely exceed $2.50. Quality of the stock is usually the deciding factor as to the price obtained. The insects have caused considerable damage, reducing the quantity of good stock available. The offerings at this time consist of the early varieties. First cuttings of the Golden Self-Blanching crop are not expected until October 1.

"Demand for cabbage continues very slow. The hot weather has worked as a detriment to the orderly marketing of this crop. Dealers have to cover wide territories with thier quotations, in order to accomplish the limited sales that are being reported. A few shipments of Danish-type have occurred, but not much activity on this late storage variety is expected until colder weather arrives.

"Onions held about steady during the week. The 50-pound bags of U.S. No. 1 yellows, 60% to 75% two inches and larger, ranged 90¢-95¢ at shipping points. Few cars of 100-pound sacks are being loaded, the f.o.b. price being around $1.75 per sack.

"Carrots have shown little change. Sacked stock in the rough holds around 65¢ per 100 pounds, and bushels of washed carrots sell in carlots occasionally at 45¢."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

An ERROR occurred in Par. 3b of last week's D.L. The f.o.b. prices of New York celery should have been $2.50, $2.65 and $2.75 per two-thirds crate, instead of $1.50, $1.65 and $1.75, as stated in that article.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P.O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 28	Oct. 3
			Peaches	Sept. 8	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sept. 21	Oct. 24
			Onions	Sept. 21	Oct. 24
			Potatoes	Oct. 7	Oct. 24
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears	Sept. 2	Nov. 7
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches	Sept. 10	Oct. 3
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct. 31
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA.	835	R. M. Peterson	Apples	Sept. 15	Oct. 31
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7

** State cooperating

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
H. F. Willson en route to Florida.
J. B. Owens in Detroit
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

The Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Project announces that the first grading work was done and the first certificates were issued at the Louisville, Ky., branch office last week. T. C. Curry is handling this work at Louisville. The grading of canned goods in the vicinity of Easton, Md., has become so heavy that it was necessary to appoint additional clerical help at that field office.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. ORDERS ISSUED IN ANOTHER WEST VIRGINIA CASE

A couple of weeks ago, the Secretary of Agriculture issued orders in connection with a case in West Virginia under the P.A.C. Act.

In this case of Baker Brothers vs. West Virginia Brokerage Company, the complainant had sold six cars of apples, which the respondent admitted purchasing. Signed confirmations were made by the broker. In the first of these confirmations, there appeared immediately after the price the words "including brokerage." None of the later confirmations bore any notation regarding the brokerage. The respondent accepted delivery and paid the agreed purchase price for each car, without making any deductions for brokerage. In the final accounting, the respondent deducted $120 brokerage on all six cars at the rate of $20 per car. The complainant alleged that nothing was said about brokerage until the respondent made the deduction. The Secretary, as a result of the hearing of this case, found that the respondent had violated the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act in that the company failed truly and correctly to account to Baker Brothers and that the respondent is indebted to Baker Brothers in the amount of $508.25. He awarded damages to and issued a reparation order in favor of Baker Brothers in this amount.

2e. A DECISION MADE IN A P.A.C. CASE AT ALTOONA, PA.

The Secretary has issued an order regarding a case brought under the P.A.C. Act by W. K. Morgan & Company, Seaford, Delaware, against the Altoona Produce Company, Altoona, Pa.

The complainant sold the respondent on August 8, 1930, a carload of tomatoes at the agreed price of $806.30, and on August 12, 1930, a carload of cucumbers at the agreed price of $337.04. The cars were shipped from Westover, Md., to Altoona, Pa., and were accepted by the respondent, but the purchase price thereof was not paid.

The respondent claimed that the condition and quality of the commodities purchased did not comply with the sale specification. The respondent, however, did not file a formal answer in the case and the claim, above-mentioned, was based upon the testimony of the witnesses given at the hearing.

With regard to the tomatoes, the respondent claimed that they were green, when purchased, and that he expected them to ripen upon arrival at destination but that 30% of them failed to ripen and that decay developed while they were still green. The record does not show that the seller warranted either expressly or impliedly as to what percentage of the green tomatoes would ripen upon arrival at destination.

With regard to the cucumbers, the respondent testified that many of them were yellow upon arrival and that they were irregular as to size. The complainant contended that he had called the respondent's attention to the fact that it was late in the season for the shipment of cucumbers and that he had also informed respondent that the cucumbers were irregular in size. It was further contended by the complainant that the cucumbers were sold " 'as is' with no comebacks and no allowances."

The parties did not clearly specify in writing what kind of tomatoes and cucumbers were to be furnished and, from consideration of the record as a

whole, the Secretary expressed the conviction that the respondent had failed to establish a breach of contract specifications on the part of the complainant and that, therefore, a finding in the respondent's favor in support of its affirmative defense is not warranted by the record. The Secretary, therefore, concluded that the respondent failed, refused and neglected truly and correctly to account to the complainant, covering the purchase price of the tomatoes and cucumbers in question, thereby violating Section 2 of the Act, and ordered that the complainant is entitled to an award of damages against the respondent in the total sum of $1,143.34 and that the facts constituting respondent's failure truly and correctly to account should be published, as provided by law.

3c. AN INTERESTING REVIEW OF THE WORK UNDER P.A.C. ACT

The following summary of facts concerning the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act was prepared by W. L. Evans:-

Practically all of the actual work of issuing licenses and handling complaints under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act has been done during the past 12 months. During that period 16,014 licenses have been issued and 431 have been extended for the second year; $171,690 has been collected in license fees; 2,011 complaints of alleged violations have been received, which is an average of 37 complaints per week, of which total 1,164 have been disposed of and closed, leaving 847 cases pending. Public hearings have been held in 29 cases of the 179 which have been referred to the Solicitor.

About one half of the complaints filed allege rejection without reasonable cause. Of the remainder, one-third allege failure to deliver in accordance with the terms of sale, while two-thirds allege incorrect accounting. Of the cases closed, amicable settlements were made of 350 cases, 400 were either withdrawn by the complainant or the complainant failed to reply to requests for further information, 84 did not fall under the Act, and the remaining 330 complaints were closed for various reasons such as no enforceable contract, insufficient evidence, no violation, not good delivery on the part of the complainant. Personal investigations have been made in 65 cases.

Considering the vast amount of correspondence entailed in connection with most of the complaints, as well as in connection with the licensing work, it is apparent that a great deal has already been accomplished with the comparatively small personnel. The volume of work involved may be more clearly visualized, when it is stated that <u>each day</u> at least 400 pieces of correspondence are filed and approximately 100 cases are withdrawn from the files for attaching incoming correspondence or for following up for replies. This work is done by a filing force of four clerks in addition to their other duties of keeping certain records, making cross-index cards and furnishing special information requested by investigators.

This work under the P.A.C. Act is located in the Earle Building at 13th and E Streets, N.W., and the staff includes 34 employees- 11 technical and 23 non-technical.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

States	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., P. O. Box 1347, San Juan, P.R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Oct. 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W.Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 7
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Building, Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, Charlottesville, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine.	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Apr. 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Winter Haven, Fla.	Citrus	Sept. 15	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, Harlingen, Texas - P.O.Box 638	Citrus	Oct. 1	Mar. 15

REPORTS on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Iowa products..... R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office.
Massachusetts onions..... O. A. McNiff, Springfield office
Ohio products..... M. W. Baker, Columbus office
Indiana & Michigan onions... Federal-State Inspection, Warsaw, Ind.
North Dakota potatoes..... R. C. Hastings, State College Sta., Fargo.
Missouri apples..... F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. CHARCOAL ROT OF SWEET POTATOES

Attached to this D.L. is a description of Charcoal Rot of sweet potatoes, written by Dr. G. B. Ramsey, of the B.P.I. office in Chicago. It is very important that all inspectors read this article carefully, as some inspectors have been unable to diagnose this trouble correctly. The sheet containing this description should be detached and filed with the Sweet-Potato Inspection Circular.

2c. APPLE AND ONION NEWS FROM STATE OF WASHINGTON

F. E. Bailey, of the Yakima office, kindly sent the following report in a letter of September 7:-

"While a few cars of Jonathan apples have moved from the earlier sections of the State, the harvesting of fall and winter varieties is not yet really under way. At the present time, growers and shippers are considerably concerned over the codling-moth situation, which is probably as bad as in any recent year. Up until about two days ago, the worms were quite active and heavy damage has already been incurred in many orchards. This is sufficient to reduce the crop of the State by several thousand cars.

"Cool weather during the fore part of September usually checks codling-moth activity and, as we have had some fairly cool weather during the past two days, such a check may now have occurred, although, if the weather turns warm again soon, renewed worm activity is not an impossibility.

"Spider damage has been extensive this season on all fruits, including apples, and it is not uncommon to see fruit trees with the foliage turned brown by the action of this pest.

"At present, we have an interesting situation in the local onion market at Yakima. Probably 100 or more cars of onions were sold by growers at prices below the current market. The dealers who bought these cars have, in turn, sold to other local dealers at prices generally above the present market. The result is that growers are not anxious to make delivery on their contracts, which usually specify U.S. No. 1 grade, and they are deliberately delivering stock slightly below grade, evidently hoping that the delivery will be rejected. On the other hand, the speculative buyer is demanding that all deliveries be up to grade and carry certificates. This situation places the first buyer or the buyer who purchased directly from the grower in a bad position and is also drawing the inspection service into a number of grade disputes. It is rather unusual for the service to have many calls for onion inspections during early September, but this year there has been quite a demand already."

3c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to the List of Past-Due Accounts:

G. Peck Parkinson,	730 West Randolph St., Chicago	$12.00
C. C. Woodall Company,	Zillah, Wash.	$4.00
Richman and Samuels,	New York City	$4.00

The following should be taken from the List of Past-Due Accounts:

John Morris, Jr.	Harlingen, Texas	$4.00

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING AUGUST, 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total Fees
Atlanta	39	42	2	0	$157.00
Baltimore	19	15	0	0	72.00
Boston	251	97	184	0	795.26
Buffalo	24	19	5	0	105.84
Chicago	67	179	2	0	250.50
Cincinnati	37	36	0	2	165.34
Cleveland	66	27	3	0	412.71
Columbus	14	37	0	0	52.00
Denver	21	28	0	0	82.50
Des Moines	3	-	0	5	12.00
Detroit	82	127	1	0	323.00
Fort Worth	17	20	0	0	112.15
Harrisburg	3	6	0	0	14.16
Houston	-	20	-	-	-
Indianapolis	11	17	0	0	53.05
Kansas City	51	43	15	4	210.00
Los Angeles	5	3	0	0	17.00
Louisville	9	-	0	0	20.50
Memphis	26	34	24	0	105.00
Milwaukee	122	63	16	0	484.40
Minneapolis	16	11	0	1	64.50
Newark	67	63	1	3	281.26
New Haven	56	26	18	0	287.00
New Orleans	130	141	18	0	202.00
New York	459	558	108	0	1,948.40
Omaha	30	26	13	0	122.46
Philadelphia	105	149	21	0	442.91
Pittsburgh	116	177	15	5	508.68
Portland	4	6	0	0	25.50
Providence	13	5	0	0	50.66
Rochester	9	11	0	0	55.30
Sacramento	0	1	0	0	--
St. Louis	70	95	17	0	258.50
Salt Lake City	0	1	0	0	1.00
San Francisco	3	0	0	0	154.00
Scranton	12	-	0	0	59.11
Seattle	0	1	0	0	--
Springfield	15	20	3	0	75.00
Toledo	0	2	0	0	--
Trenton	2	0	0	0	7.50
Tulsa	4	-	1	0	22.85
Washington	9	13	3	0	129.00
Wilkes-Barre	7	9	0	0	30.00
TOTALS:	1,994	2,128	470	20	$8,173.04

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:- Total 1,965: 718 Pennsylvania, 63 B&O, 1,012 Nickel Plate, 12 Erie, 47 Kroger Grocery & Baking Co.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING AUGUST, 1931

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

Symbols:- N - Navy M - Marine Corps	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED		Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED		TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-weight	
Stations	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
Great Lakes	192705	0	33370	0	226075	0	100	0	0	0
Newport	746194	0	25677	0	771871	0	682	0	0	0
New York	269323	78289	11983	564	281306	78853	70	0	0	0
Philadelphia	188595	23076	1649	124	190244	23200	334	55	0	0
San Diego	618533	56924	9265	0	627798	56924	2357	149	0	0
San Francisco	644588	56600	28698	1200	673286	57800	0	0	0	0
San Pedro	444262	0	23123	0	467385	0	300	0	0	0
Vallejo	225170	27391	17580	4100	242750	31491	88	0	0	0
Washington	11010	0	440	0	11450	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3340380	242280	151785	5988	3492165	248268	3931	204	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR U.S. SHIPPING BOARD										
New York	7907		63		7970		0		0	
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U.S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL										
Chicago	114500		90660		205160		0		0	
Great Lakes	62225		7860		70085		0		0	
Milwaukee	16660		1192		17852		0		0	
New York	145404		11903		157307		0		0	
Philadelphia	34962		4810		39772		0		0	
St. Louis	37163		250		37413		400		0	
TOTALS	410914		116675		527589		400		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	98384	239422	8221
Munson S.S. Line	10389	33636	510
Dollar Line	29283	42962	1270
American France Line	6597	21109	245
American Diamond Line	7524	25774	4152
American Brazil Line	859	5127	0
TOTALS	153036	368032	14398

The San Pedro office also inspected the following for the Navy: 3,606 lbs. bread, 8,440 lbs. butter, 1,500 lbs. cheese. The Vallejo office also inspected for the Navy: 23,715 lbs. bread and 520 lbs. rolls.

4c. CALIFORNIA INSPECTIONS FOR AUGUST

California Inspectors' notes dated September 4 published a report, showing 3,214 inspections at shipping points through the State, including 275 shipside inspections at San Francisco. The leading districts were as follows:- San Jose 475, Fresno 341, Sacramento 311, Dinuba 294, Ukiah 269, Sebastopol 265, Turlock 240, Watsonville 205, Stockton 125. This report covers the month of August, 1931.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. COLOR REQUIREMENTS CHANGED FOR OREGON SPITZENBURGS

The following letter of September 9 was received from Charles A. Cole, Chief, Division of Plant Industry, Oregon State Department of Agriculture:-

"As per request of the Spitzenburg shippers, the color requirement for that variety of apples has been reduced from 75% to 66-2/3% for Extra Fancy, thus making the requirement for color the same as that of last year for Extra Fancy Spitzenburgs."

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization

OFFICE NOTES: - (See item at bottom of Page 545)

Robert Bier spent part of this week in the Virginia apple shipping districts, conferring with T. W. Ayres, Supervising Inspector, regarding personnel matters connected with the shipping-point inspection work.

Guy G. Chase, whose appointment to the Regulatory Branch was announced last week, expects to leave Washington next Monday on an extensive trip which may continue for six weeks. He plans to visit a large number of markets and shipping sections in Pennsylvania and New York, stopping also at Baltimore, Md., in order to make a check of licensees under the P.A.C. Act.

W. L. Evans, of the Regulatory Branch, will leave by Sunday on an investigational trip in the interest of the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act. He expects to stop at Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Harrisburg and Hazleton, Pa. On this trip, he will also attend some of the P.A.C. hearings, scheduled to be held during the coming week.

L. C. Carey, of the Standard Container Project, left Washington on Tuesday for St. Louis, where he is making an investigation of an alleged violation of the Standard Container Act of 1928. He will also stop at Burlington, Iowa, and Chicago, to do some work in connection with containers.

L. M. Rhodes, Commissioner of the State Marketing Bureau at Jacksonville, Fla., was a visitor to the Washington office during the past week.

OFFICE NOTES (Continued):

A wedding which occurred some weeks ago at Rockville, Md., has just been announced in Washington. Miss Esther F. Fones, who cuts stencils for field-station summaries, is now Mrs. H. F. Stanley. Her friends in the local office presented her today with a beautiful gift of silverware. Congratulations and best wishes are extended the bride and groom.

J. B. Owens, who has been substituting in the Boston office of the Market News Service, will proceed to Detroit at the end of this week and relieve C. D. Schoolcraft, while the latter is on vacation.

H. F. Willson is expected to return from his vacation on Monday, September 21. He will first report at the Cincinnati office and will then spend probably two or three weeks in the field on licensing work, en route to his next market-news field assignment in Florida.

Charles W. Hauck, a former member of the Washington staff but for some years connected with the Ohio State University, at Columbus, has issued a detailed study, in mimeographed form, of the "Farm Produce Received in Trucks on the Columbus Wholesale Market during 1930." It is well illustrated with a number of graphic charts.

R. L. Spangler, who is doing field work in California for the Standardization Project, will go next Monday to Utah, to confer with L. S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, and with others regarding the cannery tomato inspection work in Utah. He will return to California later in the week.

O. G. Strauss has begun his work as Federal Supervising Inspector of Florida citrus shipments for the coming season, and should now be addressed at Winter Haven, Fla.

H. T. Longino, Federal Supervising Inspector in Texas, attended an extension meeting yesterday at Mount Pleasant, Texas, and discussed grading and packing of fruits and vegetables. He expects to be back at the Harlingen office by Saturday, September 19, and can be reached in the future at that office, which will be his headquarters during the Texas citrus season.

Grover Clyde, of the Chicago inspection staff, substituted for F. M. Lyle, at Kansas City, a few days this week, while Mr. Lyle was in the field, arranging for shipping-point inspection of Missouri apples.

M. A. Russell, also of the Chicago inspection office, has gone to Indianapolis, to confer with J. E. Dickerson regarding the inspection of cannery tomatoes, as conducted in Indiana.

A. H. Polster, who has been assisting with inspection work at Denver, will return to his headquarters at Dallas, Texas, by the end of this week and will reopen the Dallas office on September 22. N. D. Sanborn, who had been handling shipping-point inspections, has now returned to the Denver office.

TOLEDO office of the Inspection Service will be closed for the next few months. Wm. E. Phillips has gone to Pittsburgh, where he will be temporarily in charge of the inspection work, during absence of J. J. Gardner.

CHARCOAL ROT OF SWEET POTATOES

by G. B. Ramsey

Although Charcoal Rot is usually encountered as a storage disease of sweet potatoes, it sometimes becomes of great importance at this time of year. Recent inspections of some cars of Virginia stock have shown 50% or more of the roots to be affected by this disease. Accurate diagnosis of the trouble at this time is not only desirable on account of the progressive decay now found, but also on account of the seriousness of the rot in storage stock.

The inciting organism (Sclerotium bataticola) is a soil fungus which sometimes affects the stems at the soil line and from this point grows down into the roots. Consequently, in most instances, it will be found that the decay starts at one end and progresses throughout the root from this point of origin. In the initial stages, Charcoal Rot is characterized by a light-brown discoloration of the surface as well as the internal tissues. The discolored areas may be of any size and shape, but the line of demarkation between the diseased and healthy tissues is very sharp. As the decay progresses, the affected region remains firm and becomes dark brown, while the surface of the root begins to wrinkle as water is lost by evaporation. In the final stages of this disease, the root is converted into a hard, dry, black mummy.

When a decaying root is cut, there are usually three quite distinct color zones in the affected tissues. The margin or advancing edge of the lesion is light brown and slightly spongy in texture; the intermediate region is reddish-brown and firm, and the oldest part of the lesion (center of area or end of root) is grayish-black to black, dry and firm. By observing carefully the grayish-black areas, the small black sclerotia of the fungus may be seen within the tissues. No sclerotia or mycelium of the fungus are visible on the surface of the roots.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 38 September 25, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. FIRST-HAND NEWS OF THE PORTO RICAN HURRICANE

We are glad to receive the following direct information regarding the recent hurricane in Porto Rico. A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector, wrote this letter from San Juan on September 18, one week after the storm subsided:-

"You probably have read in the newspapers that we had a hurricane here the night of Thursday, September 10. New York papers, received yesterday, very much exaggerated the storm. While we had about four hours of wind that varied from 60 to 100 miles an hour, nowhere near the damage was done as reported in the United States papers. A few people were killed, some houses blown down, and general damage done along the northern coast of Porto Rico. In fact, the storm pretty well swept the upper 35 miles of the Island. Damage done to citrus fruit varied from practically nothing in some districts to as high as 70% in others, but the damage to this fruit on the whole Island will not much exceed 15%.

"A peculiar thing about this storm was that a larger percentage of half-grown fruit was knocked from the trees than of fully-mature fruit. Very little of this will be shipped, as most of it is badly bruised. The sun came out very hot on Friday, the 11th, and the fruit was badly sunburnt before it could be picked up. The storm probably uprooted 1,000 to 1,500 citrus trees.

"There was much more severe damage done to pineapples than to citrus. The wind broke down stalks of the pineapples and practically destroyed all that were in bloom or further matured, and this will mean that for the next three months there will be practically no movement of pineapples from Porto Rico.

"This week we inspected approximately 27,000 boxes of citrus, and we look for almost as much work next week. Shipments will be real heavy until about the 15th of November. It appears now that, with fairly good steamship service between here and England, a larger portion of this crop than ever before will go into export and that the usual dull period in February will not occur."

2a. CALIFORNIA GRAPES SHIPPED TO NEW YORK BY WATER

A San Francisco dispatch states that the first cold-storage shipment of California grapes by water is now on its way to New York on the Panama Pacific liner "Virginia," as an experiment. The cargo of 8,000 lugs of fancy table fruit is in a storage room in which a temperature of 33° to 37° will be maintained. The "Virginia" also has aboard 630,000 pounds, about 30 carloads, of California almonds.

- IF YOU EVER FAIL TO RECEIVE YOUR DIVISION LETTER, TELL THE EDITOR. -

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. NEWS OF IMPORTANT OREGON CROPS

B. E. Surry, who is substituting in the Portland market-news office, sent the following report under date of September 18:-

"The Oregon onion acreage, estimated at slightly over 1,000 acres, is approximately the same as last year. Yields, however, may be slightly lower. The crop has matured well and most of the onions will be of good size. Growers are rather reluctant to sell at the present time, but are waiting until harvesting has been completed. A few opening sales were made around September 1, with Yellow Danvers bringing $1 per 100-pound sack, f.o.b. shipping points. Those growers, who are willing to sell now, are receiving $1.25 per cwt. plus cost of sack, with a few sales netting growers as much as $1.40. Local operators estimate the season's carlot movement between 750 and 850 cars.

"The celery season, which began in July, is progressing well. Opening f.o.b. prices ranged as high as $4.50-$4.75 for large crates. Throughout most of August, and until very recently, crates were quoted generally at $3.25-$3.50. Eastern and southern inquiry and demand have been quite active, and shippers have often found difficulty in filling ready orders. Present prices at shipping point for crates in the rough are $3. The season at Troutdale (15 miles east of Portland) begins next week. Quality of the celery is reported to be good. Movement to date amounts to 150 cars.

"Combined estimates of important shippers, who control practically all of the crop, place the fall cauliflower plantings at 1,300 acres. About 1,100 acres of this total are located just east of Portland. The quality this year promises to be very good, with much benefit derived from recent rains and mild weather. Shippers believe that a fair price will be realized, providing that quality can be maintained. The first car of the season rolled on September 9, but shipments will be scattering until October. Estimates place the probable carlot movement at 600 or 700 cars."

2b. RELATIVELY LOW PRICES RECEIVED FOR WISCONSIN POTATOES

Below is the first letter of the season received from A. M. McDowell, in charge of the Waupaca field station. It is dated September 20:-

"The Antigo and northern Wisconsin districts are originating practically all of the carlot shipments of potatoes being made from the State at the present time, with Cobblers comprising the bulk of the movement. During the past week, dealers generally have reported a light wire inquiry, and most sales have been consummated around 75¢, sacked per 100 pounds. Growers were receiving 50¢-55¢ per cwt., bulk. This is considerably lower than a year ago, when the prices were around $2 and $1.75, respectively.

"Quality has been fairly good, with little disease showing up, but most stock is only of medium size. Some rain fell during the week and, as a result, haulings were rather light on several days. Digging in this district will probably continue for another two weeks.

"In the central part of the State, where Round Whites are the predominant variety, light rains fell several days during the week. As the vines are still green, it is hoped that growing weather will continue sufficiently long to enable the tubers to attain larger size. Digging of Round Whites will probably not begin until after the first of October."

3b. MAINE GROWERS RECEIVING ONLY FIFTY CENTS PER BARREL OF POTATOES

The extremely low prices being received for potatoes in northern Maine are emphasized by V. H. Nicholson in the following letter of September 19 from Presque Isle:-

"Shipments of Maine potatoes have been comparatively light for the past two weeks. While the crop has matured earlier than last season, the extremely low prices and the slow demand have been primarily responsible for the light movement. Rains on Tuesday and Thursday of this week prevented growers from digging except in the well-drained fields, and movement to storage has also been rather light. The greater part of the Cobbler crop has been harvested, but only a small percentage of the Green Mountains has been dug. While it is usually the custom to harvest the Cobblers first, a few growers are leaving them and digging the Green Mountains first, as the latter variety is considered the more valuable crop. It is possible that a part of the Cobbler crop will be left in the ground.

"While most carlots have been billed to Boston and other New England points, the movement to points in Ohio, Michigan and western Pennsylvania has been rather encouraging. New Jersey and Long Island stock is practically supplying the Philadelphia and New York markets, and very little Maine stock has been shipped to either of those cities.

"Growers are receiving generally 40¢-50¢ bulk per barrel measure for Cobblers delivered to the shipper's warehouse or storage. Green Mountains have been selling mostly at 50¢-60¢ on the same basis. These are the lowest prices on record here in this office, and most growers claim they are the lowest ever paid. At the prevailing prices, most farmers will probably lose about half their growing charges. As the demand is now extremely slow and prices are at record low levels, it is quite probable that all storages will be filled."

4b. RECENT NEWS ON MICHIGAN CROPS

R. M. Keller reported as follows in a letter of September 19 from the Benton Harbor office:-

"The heat wave which held the Middle West in its grip during the first half of September has subsided, and farmers with grape and apple crops are feeling more optimistic. The hot weather matured peaches so rapidly that a large portion of that crop turned soft before it could be marketed. The peach harvest is practically finished now. If continued warm weather had prevailed, the grapes would have had to be picked before a proper demand was stimulated for this fruit. A few cars of grapes have moved, but most farmers knowing that their crops are short are holding for an improvement in weather and market. Harvesting is expected to start in a general way during the week of September 20.

"Apple harvesting has been quite light, as most of the fruit packing houses, and the farmers as well, have been busy cleaning up the last of the peach harvest. Hyslop crabapples and Wealthys are the two principal varieties moving now.

"Recent rains have aided late-crop potato prospects. As yet, potatoe shipments have been very limited, with practically all of the late stock in the fields still in the process of growing.

"Considerable buying activity is reported from the onion sections, but as yet carlot movement has been light. Farmers report that harvesting is well along and that most of the stock is going into storage."

5b. CHANGE ON "D" PAGE OF CODE

Effective at once, change "DON" on the "D" page of the code to read as follows:

DON - Shenandoah-Cumberland-Potomac District.

This has been suggested by local interests, because the Shenandoah section produces approximately two-thirds of the apples in the entire district.

6b. POTOMAC YARD PASSINGS INCREASED LAST SEASON

Mr. Crosthwait, of the Washington office, visits Potomac Yard, Va., each morning during the active shipping season and obtains a report of passings. He has compiled the following interesting reports-

A total of 103,064 cars of all commodities was forwarded through the Potomac Yard to northern markets from October 3, 1930, through August 29, 1931. This is 17,960 more cars than passed that point between October 3, 1929, and August 16, 1930. The principal products which showed an increase during the past season were oranges, with an increase of 6,965 cars over the preceding season; grapefruit, with 3,565 cars; peaches, with 3,631 cars; potatoes, with 2,212 cars, and tangerines, with 1,473 cars. On the other hand, tomatoes and watermelons were each about 1,000 cars lighter than during the previous season.

About 53 commodities were listed in carlots during the shipping period, and the distribution from Potomac Yard extended to some 175 cities and towns in the United States and Canada. The peak monthly passings occurred in May of the present year, with 16,487 cars recorded. The heaviest movement for the 1929-30 season was in July, with 14,030 cars. The heaviest record for a single day the present year was on August 3, when 703 cars passed the Yard. Last year, the peak day was July 28, with a total of 769 cars.

The following tabulation gives the total carlot passings by months for each of the two seasons, and the 10 leading products for the 1930-31 season:

Potomac Yard Passings

The 1930-31 Season		1929-30 Season	:	Ten leading commodities,-	
Month	Cars	Cars	:	Oct. 3, 1930-Aug. 29,31	
October	3,194	2,479	:	Oranges	17,831
November	6,403	3,801	:	Watermelons	12,457
December	6,657	6,237	:	Grapefruit	11,202
January	7,896	7,360	:	Potatoes	10,843
February	8,166	7,217	:	Peaches	10,740
March	9,285	8,287	:	Mxd. Citrus	5,440
April	9,542	8,182	:	Celery	4,657
May	16,487	11,762	:	Cabbage	4,522
June	14,890	12,500	:	Beans	3,656
July	12,943	14,030	:	Tomatoes	3,519
August	7,601	3,247	:		

7b. CANADIAN APPLE CROP LARGER THAN LAST YEAR

The Canadian apple estimate of September 1 places the 1931 crop at 3,634,000 barrels. Last year's crop amounted to 3,411,000 barrels and the average for the years 1926-1930 was 3,270,000 barrels. All of the increase over last year is in the eastern barreled apple area. The British Columbia crop stands at 3,437,000 boxes, as against 4,322,000 boxes last year.

8b. WESTERN NEW YORK CROP AND MARKET NOTES

Below are some notes on western New York products, abbreviated from a letter of September 22, written by R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office:-

"Activity among the fruit and vegetable factors in western and central New York during the past week has fluctuated between very slow to fairly good. Shippers find it difficult to interest the trade in most varieties of apples, cabbage, celery, and carrots.

"The peach deal will probably wind up earlier than expected. Fruit placed in storage in many instances is not holding up well. The carlot movement has barely exceeded 500 cars. At this time last season, over 1,800 cars had moved to market. However, the crop this season is estimated to be about the same as last year. Truck movement is heavier and more fruit has been sold directly from the orchards.

"The demand for Bartlett pears has been fairly well maintained. Some dealers and growers have been holding for higher prices than those offered. This season, only 370 cars have moved from the State, whereas approximately 1,300 had been shipped by the same time last year.

"Local dealers and brokers report a rather active demand for Wealthy apples but a slow demand for most other varieties. Domestic-type cabbage is selling at very low prices and the quality is variable, largely on account of worm damage.

"The market for celery has weakened during the past few days. There has been a wide range in the quality of stock offered. The deal for the early varieties is drawing to a close. This type has not been stored to any extent this season, so that it will only be a short while until all the sales will be on the basis of Golden Self-Blanching. In addition to the insect problem on the early varieties, dealers have reported rather serious blight.

"The onion market is holding steady. Sizes this season are not averaging as large as last year, although this State is favored with a crop of better size than those in the Middle West. There has been no noticeable change in the carrot market, with sales rather scarce."

9b. A FAVORABLE ONION MARKET IN NORTHWEST

T. R.Hall, of the Seattle office, included the following comments in a report dated September 17:-

"A reduction of nearly a half million bushels in onion production of the three northwestern States, -Idaho, Oregon and Washington, -as indicated by September 1 conditions, imparted added impetus to the onion markets of that district. In the Portland, Oregon, area, best yellows were quoted at $1.30-$1.35 sacked per cwt., f.o.b. shipping point. Yakima Valley growers were being offered $30-$35 sacked per ton of large Yellow Valencias. Some buyers are planning to sort the medium sizes for immediate sale and will hold stock 3 inches and larger for early winter business.

"The active shipping season for cantaloupes, peaches and fresh prunes is practically over. Peach shipments in carlots have totaled over 800 cars, or nearly double last year's movement. The free movement of tomatoes from eastern Washington is drawing to a close, although limited quantities will be available until frost."

-IMPORTANT NEWS ITEMS ARE DESIRED FOR THE D.L. FROM ALL BRANCH OFFICES.-

10b. IMPORTANT NEWS ON POTOMAC VALLEY APPLES

R. M. Peterson sent the following report from Martinsburg, W. Va., in a letter of September 23:-

"The movement of the Shenandoah-Cumberland-Potomac district apples is very slow and unsatisfactory. Domestic demand has been decidedly draggy. There was a fair export demand earlier in the season and good-sized blocks were sold for future delivery. This demand, however, fell off as the season advanced and is now almost at a standstill.

"All varieties are maturing about 10 days later than usual. Fully three-fourths of the Grimes crop has been harvested. The size has been good, and quality of the packed fruit was above average. The exports of this variety were heavier than usual, but a fair quantity has gone into cold storage because of the poor domestic demand.

"Harvesting of Jonathans is well under way, with about half of the crop picked. Yield has not been heavy and the fruit is not showing a good bright color.

"The Delicious harvesting is just getting under way, having been delayed because of lack of color, but most of this variety will have to be picked within the next 10 days, as it is maturing very rapidly.

"Yorks, the most important variety in this section, are showing normal size but the quality is unusually poor, due largely to hail and worm injury, and the color is developing very slowly. Harvesting has started in a small way but is not expected to become general until October 10 or 15.

"Staymans are also showing lack of color, and in many orchards the size is smaller than usual. The time of harvesting is the same as that of the Yorks. The Ben Davis and Gano crops are light this season and the quality is generally poor."

11b. INTERESTING NOTES FROM THE ST. LOUIS MARKET

M. M. Thomas, market reporter in St. Louis, sent the following notes in a letter of September 17:-

"Movement of the Calhoun County, Illinois, apple crop is increasing daily. This morning I had truck receipts of approximately 5,000 baskets reported by the dealers. Prices are low and most of the fruit is being packed orchard-run and is selling at 50¢-75¢ per basket. An occasional lot of graded fruit brings as high as $1. Dealers inform me that a majority of the growers are making no effort to grade the fruit, on account of the low prices. Other commodities are in slow demand, with the market dull and weak in most instances. There has been some activity in pears but, with higher prices, the demand is curtailed considerably."

B. C. BOREE,
Sepcialist in Market News.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. SIZE CLASSIFICATION OF IDAHO POTATOES

Shipping-point inspectors in Idaho are reporting size of potatoes as follows:

Medium - from minimum size for grade up to 10 ounces.
Large - 10 to 18 ounces inclusive.
Very Large - potatoes over 18 ounces in weight.

Receiving-point inspectors should determine size of Idaho potatoes upon the same basis, in order to promote uniformity. This classification, however, does not apply to potatoes from any other State.

2c. USE TERM "BOX" INSTEAD OF "SUITCASE"

The term "suitcase," which has been used to describe a container for fresh prunes, is too indefinite and its use must be discontinued. In the State of Washington, shipping-point inspectors have been instructed to designate these containers as boxes. The size of the box, referred to as the "suitcase," has been changed from time to time and the term "suitcase" no longer applies to a specific box. When the type of container is a point in controversy the inside dimensions of the box may be given on the inspection certificate.

3c. ANOTHER REPORT ON LOW YIELDS OF POTATOES IN COLORADO

J. R. Sheely, inspector in charge of shipping-point work in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, sent the following report in a letter of September 18 from Monte Vista:-

"Potato shipments from the San Luis Valley district will undoubtedly be the lowest of any year since I came here, which was 1922, the year the Federal service was extended to shipping points. This in face of the fact that the acreage has been considerably increased the last several years and is now estimated at 40,000 acres, which under normal conditions should produce at least 12,000 cars. The most optimistic say that 3,000 cars is all that can be expected this season, exclusive of the truck movement, while others think 2,000 cars is a high figure.

"Two stations, Mosca and Hooper, where the acreage has been steadily increased until last season they loaded approximately 500 cars, expect this season to ship not more than 35 carloads. Adverse conditions have undoubtedly hit this section harder than any other place in the San Luis Valley. When growers are reporting yields of marketable potatoes ranging from 5 to 20 sacks per acre, on farms which last year produced from 100 to 250 sacks, it will give an idea as to the conditions. In a few areas along the river and creek bottoms, normal yields are being found, but these are offset by a great many fields which are being abandoned without digging, as the tubers did not obtain sufficient size to be used as seed."

The large motor-truck load of produce, which left Los Angeles on the 5th of September, safely arrived in New York City about 10 days later, with contents reported to be in very good condition.

4c. TROUBLE FROM CODLING-MOTH EGGS HATCHING AFTER FRUIT WAS INSPECTED

F. E. Bailey, of the Yakima office, sent the following letter under date of September 19:-

"Possibly you have already been advised of the situation in the Northwest this season, where, on a number of lots of Jonathans and other early-packed apples, it has been noted that codling-moth eggs have hatched and young worms have burrowed around under the skin of the fruit in the wrapper. It is not practical to detect unhatched codling-moth eggs on fruit in commercial grading and, when no worm punctures appear in inspection immediately after picking, the shipping-point inspector must pass the fruit as up to grade, even though he knows there is a possibility that worm damage will occur following his inspection. You may have already encountered some of this in the markets. It may even come up as a problem on an appeal inspection for grade, as I believe it has at times in other years."

5c. INTERESTING NEWS FROM IDAHO

L. G. Schultz, Federal Supervising Inspector for Idaho and Montana, sent the following letter from Boise on September 16:-

"I expect to leave Boise next Monday, September 21, for the eastern part of the State, covering all the potato shipping districts and going from there to Montana for a period of a week or possibly 10 days.

"Potato shipments in eastern Idaho are gaining in volume daily and, contrary to earlier predictions, the quality is much better than was expected. The tonnage is much lighter than last year and the potatoes, as a rule, will average much smaller in size. It is now generally estimated that the total shipments this season will be between 20,000 and 25,000 cars, depending upon the quantity of No. 2's shipped. At present, prices do not justify the shipping of the lower grade.

"Our prune shipping season is drawing to a close and will be practically finished this week. The market has been very weak and growers, in most cases, will be fortunate if they realize expenses from this crop. This is particularly true of later shipments, as many of the earlier shipments were contracted at fairly-good prices. The quality, as a whole, has not been equal to that of former years, chiefly on account of extremely hot weather or drought conditions in certain sections. Where there was sufficient water, the quality has been very good.

"Apple shipments are starting and several cars have already been loaded for export. Shipments of Jonathans will increase quite rapidly after this week, the volume depending upon the market. At the present time, there is practically no domestic demand for this variety and the only interest being shown is for export shipments. It is doubtful whether growers will receive more than 65¢ per bushel basket for the combination-grade Jonathans. It is generally expected that the market will be somewhat better for the later varieties.

"We have our inspection personnel fairly well organized at this time and, unless the markets become such as to prohibit shipments, we should have a fairly successful season."

Production of cabbage for kraut is estimated this year at 148,200 tons, or about 31% less than last year's crop for this purpose.

6c. HEAVY EXPORTS OF FRUIT THROUGH MONTREAL

W. W. Anderson, who is handling the special certification work on export apples and other fruit at Montreal, Canada, sent the following report under date of September 19:-

"Just a note to say that the shipping of export apples through Canada has really begun in earnest this week. I issued the British Forms on 76 cars ($4.00 each), clearing this port and Quebec. In addition, there was a considerable number of cars of pears, prunes and plums, which had previously been inspected, that came through this channel also. Most of the apples were from Washington, Virginia, California, New York, Maine and West Virginia, bound for the United Kingdom, mostly to the ports of Newcastle, Liverpool, London, Glasgow and Southampton.

"It may be of interest to know that New York State is shipping a number of cars of pears in barrels this year, practically all Bartletts. There is a considerable volume of domestic apples in baskets moving through here at present, mostly from Ottawa, which will continue until about the first of November."

7c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Mackay & Lehman,	Weslaco, Texas.	$4.00
Geo. Janssen & Co.	Quincy, Ill.	$1.00
Wade & Newton	San Benito, Texas.	$4.00
Mackay & Lehman	Welslaco, Texas.	$4.00
Trulyn Shippers, Inc.	Weslaco, Texas.	$4.00

The following should be taken from List of Past-Due Accounts:

Richman & Samuels, Inc.	New York, N.Y.	$4.00
A. E. Marsh Company	Yakima, Washington	$5.00

8c. MATERIAL SENT TO INSPECTORS

With this D.L., each inspector will receive copies of the following:
"Utah Official Grades for the Standardization of Farm Products, 1931-32."
"Official Handbook of the Montana State Division of Horticulture, 1931."
"Massachusetts Apple Grading and Packing Regulations, 1931."
"Tabulation of Defects Permitted in the U. S. Grades for Apples."

A limited supply has been received of the "Rhode Island Apple Grading Law, 1931." Copies of this pamphlet are being enclosed for all inspectors in the eastern markets.

These booklets have been furnished through Mr. Pailthorp's office.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. A NEW YORK P.A.C. CASE DISMISSED

The Secretary of Agriculture has issued an order dismissing the complaint brought under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act by Elmer G. Porter, of Caywood, N.Y., against Hashinsky, Breslow, Richer & Company of Brooklyn, N.Y. The counter complaint brought by the respondent against the complainant was also dismissed. The Secretary based this action on his decision that the seller's cashing of a check, known to have been accepted by his agent in full payment for a car of produce, constituted ratification of the agent's act.

The Secretary found that Elmer G. Porter, on or about October 7, 1930, sold to Hashinsky, Breslow, Richer & Company one carload of U.S. No. 1 Concord juice grapes at a price of 47½¢ per 12-quart Climax basket, the car moving from Romulus, N. Y., in interstate commerce to the respondent at Brooklyn. Upon arrival and inspection, respondent refused to accept the grapes unless the complainant agreed to a reduction in the purchase price of 5¢ per basket. The complainant refused to authorize such an allowance but, notwithstanding such refusal, the complainant's agent, Isaac W. Carr, on complainant's behalf, granted the allowance of 5¢ per basket and accepted and forwarded to the complainant a check in the sum of $476.61, in full payment of the purchase price. Complainant retained the check until on or about November 12, 1930, at which time he forwarded it to the bank on which it was drawn, with the request that it be certified. Instead of certifying the check, the bank sent Porter a cashier's check in the amount of $476.36. Porter retained the proceeds of this check in the belief that the dispute could be submitted to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, notwithstanding his use of the proceeds. The complainant claimed that the allowance of 5¢ per basket was made without his authority and that he should be reimbursed in the amount of the allowance granted. The respondent, on the other hand, claimed that the allowance of 5¢ per basket was authoritatively made by the broker; that grapes furnished did not comply with sale specifications, and asked for an award of damages in its favor representing the loss claimed to have been sustained thereby.

The broker's granting of the 5¢ allowance was in excess of his authority and complainant was not bound thereby unless he subsequently ratified the broker's unauthorized act. As to ratification, the facts of record are in substance that the complainant received the respondent's check for $476.61, which was $69.65 less than the sale price of the grapes. Complainant acknowledged receipt of the check, advising respondent that it would not be accepted in settlement of the account and that he had not given Mr. Carr any authority to make settlement for him. The check was then sent to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics but was returned. After holding check for sometime, the complainant sent it to the bank for certification and received in lieu thereof a cashier's check. This check was cashed. The original check had been endorsed by the broker as follows: "This is in full payment of car MDT 18113, allowance made by I. W. Carr as agent for E. G. Porter.-Isaac W. Carr."

Ratification is the subsequent adoption and affirmance by one person, as principal, with full knowledge of all material facts, of an act which another, without authority, has previously assumed to do for him while purporting to act as his agent. The courts have held in one case that, where the principal retained money delivered by his agent who had made an unauthorized settlement

of a disputed claim, the principal thereby ratified the settlement. In another case, it was held that, where the principal accepted a check received by his agent for a less amount than the principal claimed was due from another, such acceptance amounted to satisfaction of the claim. In still another case, where the principal received a check accompanied by the statement that it was sent in accordance with a settlement arrived at with the principal's representative, the court held that acceptance of the check amounted to a ratification of the settlement, even though the principal promptly wrote the maker of the check that he would not be bound by the settlement made by his agent but would apply the check on account.

In the instant case, the complainant acted in full possession of all the facts. He knew a reduction had been granted and that a check had been issued to him and endorsed by his agent in full settlement of the dispute. The Secretary, therefore, holds that the complainant by his action ratified the settlement made by his agent.

As to the respondent's counter claim against the complainant for an award of damages, based upon failure to deliver grapes of the grade and quality called for by sale specifications, the complainant made the objection that testimony offered in support of such a claim was immaterial, for the reason that the respondent testified that he had made a complete settlement with the broker The Secretary found that this objection was well taken and that the respondent can not at the same time rely upon the settlement made with the broker and in turn disregard such settlement and maintain an action for damages for failure to deliver in accordance with sale specifications. The settlement operates to bind both parties thereto. Both the claim and the counter claim were ordered dismissed.

2e. RICHMOND FIRM VIOLATED P.A.C. ACT

The Secretary has issued an order finding T. B. Pearman & Company, Inc., Richmond, Va., guilty of a violation of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

This complaint was brought by the Department against the respondent, alleging a violation of Section 9 of the Act, which requires that licensees shall keep such records as will fully and correctly disclose all facts regardir the transaction. The facts, on which the complaint was made, were developed as a result of an investigation made of a complaint against Burton & Briel, Inc., Richmond, Va., whose license was revoked some time ago by the Secretary. T. B. Pearman & Company, Inc., purchased a carload of onions from Burton & Briel, Inc but failed and neglected to keep accounts and records in such form as to show the date or dates on which the onions were paid for and failed correctly to di close the actual transaction between the parties respecting the payment made by the respondent to Burton & Briel, Inc. The Secretary found the respondent guilty of violation of Section 9 and ordered that the facts be published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The estimated production of tomatoes for manufacture is 1,066,900 tons, or 41% below last year's crop and 18% less than the recent five-year average. Both acreage and indicated yield per acre are lighter than in 1930. Unfavorable growing conditions this season caused a great reduction in crop prospects

3e. OFFICIAL ORDER ISSUED IN P.A.C. CASE AT SCRANTON

The Secretary has issued an order dismissing a complaint brought under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act by R, W. Burch, Inc., of Plant City, Fla., against the Union Grocery Company, of Scranton, Pa. The Secretary based this action on his decision that a broker's memorandum of sale, which did not conform to oral instructions given by the buyer, could not be considered as the act of the buyer and, hence, was not binding on him.

The Greenberg Brokerage Company of Scranton, Pa., on December 7 and 8, 1930, negotiated by telephone with Simon Stahler of the Union Grocery Company for the sale of a mixed carload of oranges and grapefruit from the complainant. The respondent placed an oral order for the purchase of the car and, thereafter, the broker made out a confirmation of sale, specifying "one car Puritan brand choice oranges and grapefruit, $1.50 f.o.b., Arcadia, Florida," and advised the complainant by wire that the car had been sold. Thereupon, the complainant diverted car WFE 65184, which had been shipped on December 7 and which was then rolling.

Upon arrival of the car at Scranton, on or about December 13, the respondent refused to accept it, for the reason that the oranges included a very large number of Russets, whereas, according to the respondent, he had ordered Brights and Goldens. At the hearing, Simon Stahler, of the respondent company, testified that, in discussing the purchase of the car with the broker, he had insisted that he would take nothing but Brights and Goldens and asked the broker specifically if the car would have any Russets, to which the latter replied that it would not. The broker, in his testimony, admitted that Stahler had specified Brights and Goldens. The respondent further testified that the sale was consummated on December 8, with the distinct understanding that the oranges must be Brights and Goldens; that upon receipt of the confirmation he discovered that it did not specify Brights and Goldens, and that he immediately called attention of the broker to this fact. According to respondent's testimony, the broker assured him that they would be Bright oranges and, if they were not, he would not have to take them; that upon arrival the car contained Russets, and he immediately notified the broker to that effect and the latter said that he would try to resell the car.

It is clear that the oranges shipped by the complainant complied with the sale specifications as stated in the broker's confirmation of sale. The question then presented is whether the respondent was bound by the specifications stated by the broker in this confirmation. As the confirmation was not signed by the respondent, it was not an enforceable contract when considered either as a Florida or a Pennsylvania contract, unless the broker represented both the buyer and the seller and unless all oral negotiations and representations, made prior to the execution and mailing of the written confirmation and which were not stated therein, can be disregarded. The record shows that the broker acted in this matter for both buyer and seller.

But, while a broker may act for both parties, making and furnishing copies of the confirmation of sale to his principals, yet such confirmation or memorandum must in substance conform to the oral understanding previously arrived at. The Statute of Frauds presupposes a prior or verbal contract, which later is confirmed by the giving of a written note or memorandum, which must in substance conform to the oral agreement. The record in this case shows that the broker admits that the respondent specified Brights and Goldens. It further appears that, upon receipt of the confirmation of sale, respondent showed it to

the broker and asked why it did not conform to the telephone agreement.

As the respondent specified bright-colored oranges, he had the right to insist upon that color being furnished. When, therefore, the broker made out a confirmation and memorandum materially different from what had been orally promised, the memorandum did not become the act of respondent as principal and therefore did not constitute a note or memorandum of the buyer. It was concluded that the respondent's rejection of the oranges was justified and not in violation of the Act, and it was therefore ordered that the complaint be dismissed.

4e. DISMISSAL OF BRIDGEPORT CASE

The Secretary has issued an order dismissing the complaint brought under the P.A.C. Act by M. J. Duer & Company of Exmore, Va., against A. Abeson, Inc., of Bridgeport, Conn. The hearing of this case was held before an examiner at Bridgeport on July 6. The respondent appeared in person; the complainant failed to appear either in person or by counsel.

The hearing brought out the fact that on or about June 30, 1930, the complainant through its agent, Andrew J. McPartland, of New Haven, Conn., conducted telephone negotiations with the respondent at Bridgeport, resulting in the sale of one carload of U.S. No. 1 Cobbler potatoes, at a cost of $3.15 per barrel.

Because of the lack of evidence as to where the sale was consummated and what the terms of sale were, the contract,-if in fact it can be said that any contract was actually entered into by the parties,-must be governed by the laws of Connecticut. Under the Uniform Sales Act, as enacted in Connecticut, contract to sell goods of the value of $500 or upwards is not enforceable, unless buyer will accept part of the goods or gives something in earnest or in part payment unless some note or memorandum in writing is signed by the party to be charged or his authorized agent.

The confirmation of sale, which the broker says he mailed to the respondent, was not produced at the trial nor was there offered on its behalf any other writing, setting forth the essential terms and conditions of such sale, as required by the Connecticut statutes. The confirmation of sale not having been produced, the Secretary found it impossible to say whether such confirmation was sufficient to meet the requirements of the Connecticut statutes. He, therefore, concluded that the claimed contract of sale is unenforceable and ordered the complainant's complaint dismissed.

5e. W. R. WEDRICK, SILVER LAKE, INDIANA, PLEADS GUILTY TO VIOLATION OF PRODUCE AGENCY ACT

Information has been received from the U. S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana to the effect that W. R. Wedrick, on July 1 last, pleaded guilty to the charge of having violated the Produce Agency Act and was fined $100, plus costs of $20.

This case involved a consignment of one car of onions which Mr. Wedrick handled on behalf of John Bera, North Judson, Indiana, in October, 1930. In the account sales, Mr. Wedrick reported that the 500 bags of onions had been sold at 75¢ per bag, whereas, in fact, he had received 80¢ per bag.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

OFFICE NOTES:

Robert Bier, of the Washington inspection staff, was at Hancock, Md., on Monday and Tuesday with S. B. Shaw, of the University of Maryland staff, helping to supervise the shipping-point work on apples.

C. H. Walleigh, of the Regulatory Branch, left Washington on Wednesday for points in Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois, where he will investigate special cases in connection with the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act. He may be absent about two weeks.

O. M. Harsha, of the Regulatory Branch, and C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's Office, went to New York on Monday, in connection with U.S. district court cases under the Produce Agency Act.

J. L. Ebert, of the New York City inspection staff, will proceed to Charleston, S. C., about the middle of next week and will handle fruit and vegetable inspection work for the Navy at that port until January. His local address will be: Naval Landing, foot of Charlotte Street, Charleston.

H. F. McFeely, a licensed inspector, has gone to New York City, to help with the work in that market for a few months.

The list of field stations of the Market News Service is not being published in this D. L. because there are practically no changes this week. It can be noted that the local address of the Martinsburg, W. Va., office is Room 9, County Court House. Onion f.o.b. reports at Benton Harbor, Mich., will not be started before next week, at the earliest.

On the list of temporary headquarters of the shipping-point inspection work, please note that T. W. Ayres' local address at Charlottesville, Va., is 211 Park Place, and his phone number is 1107-R.

J. A. Marks, who has been temporarily in the Pittsburgh office, will proceed on Sunday to Brocton, N.Y., from which town he will supervise the shipping-point inspection work on western New York grapes.

MEMPHIS OFFICE of the Inspection Service has moved again,- this time to permanent quarters in Room 1101, Falls Building. Please make this correction on all copies of the inspectors' address list.

Paul M. Williams, in charge of grading work on canned fruits and vegetables, visited the field office at Easton, Md., last Tuesday. He expects to proceed on Sunday to the Chicago office in the Mercantile Exchange Bldg., for a conference with E. P. Bostwick, in charge. First certificates were issued by the Chicago office last Saturday.

R. B. Landrum, of the Tulsa, Okla., office attended a meeting last week in the Ozarks section of Missouri. A large number of canners and others who are interested in the grading work were present, and Mr. Landrum explained the new service on canned fruits and vegetables. Although extremely hot weather reduced the crop of tomatoes in the Ozarks district, it is still expected that there will be a considerable volume of business in that area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 39 October 2, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. HEAVY PEACH MOVEMENT THIS YEAR

"Few people who were not watching the market closely realized what a tremendous movement of peaches came out of the Southeast this year. There was one week at the height of the Georgia season, the last week of July, when the total reported carlot shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables in the United States were 24,000 cars. Of these about 8,000 cars were peaches. Think of it! One car in every three of all the fresh fruits and vegetables moving to market was filled with peaches. I wonder how many of you are members of families which invested one-third of all their fruit and vegetable money in peaches during that week or the week following. Unless a great many people did so, it is easy to see what would happen to the peach market, and, when we consider what actually did happen to the peach market, we are led to believe that most consumers did not do so and perhaps did not realize, until it was too late, that they had had an opportunity to buy peaches for the bare cost of transportation and handling."(from Mr. Sherman's radio talk, Sept. 10)

CANNED PRODUCTS GRADING SERVICE

1f. LIST OF STANDARDS FOR CANNED PRODUCTS

Below is a complete list of the grades or standards, which have been prepared for canned vegetables. This is published for the information of all members of the Division:-

Whole-grain Corn)	
Cream-style Corn)	These four grades have been officially
Green Peas)	promulgated by the Secretary.
Tomatoes)	
Lima Beans)	
String Beans)	
Beets)	These six grades have been prepared in
Pumpkin and Squash)	tentative form and are being used
Sauer Kraut)	experimentally.
Spinach, Mustard Greens)	
and Turnip Greens)	

Grades for other canned products will be prepared, as this new work develops.

L. M. BILLMAN,
Asst. Marketing Specialist

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. WISCONSIN POTATO NOTES

The following brief report was received under date of September 27 from A. M. McDowell at Waupaca:-

"A decline of about 10¢ per 100 pounds, both in carlot prices and in prices received by growers, was about the only change in the Wisconsin potato situation the past week. Demand continued very slow and there has been a very light wire inquiry.

"The coming week will see most of the Cobblers in the Antigo and northern Wisconsin districts dug. The central part of the State will probably become of major importance soon after the first of October, when digging of Round Whites is expected to begin. The cooler weather and light rains of the past week have been favorable to the development of increased size of the tubers, and growers are hopeful of having another week or 10 days of similar weather."

2b. RECENT NEWS ON SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO ONIONS

The following comments on onions in the Arkansas River Valley of Colorado were submitted by Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, as a result of personal observation in that district:-

"The quality of Spanish onions in the Rocky Ford area is good, but the general size will be small to medium. The large onions have been slow in maturing. Most fields in the Arkansas Valley have been sold either on an acre basis or on a field-run-per-cwt. basis and very little independent acreage remains at this time. Shipments will probably range between 900 and 1,000 cars, since present prices will induce strict conservation of marketable onions and will permit the sale of small sizes, many of which did not move last season.

"Several sections of the State have had a frost and light freezes to date, with the high mountains recently covered with snow. Carlot movement of Colorado potatoes has been moderate during the past week (Sept. 20-26), and demand has been limited. Cauliflower shipments have continued rather liberally. Peak movement in the district between Pueblo and Avondale will probably be reached about October 1. Colorado cauliflower growers have been fortunate in that the demand has continued good and prices have held about steady at 85¢-90¢ per pony crate, on an f.o.b. usual terms basis. Cabbage shipments from the State were slightly heavier, and prices declined somewhat to $13-$14 per ton, on a carlot basis."

3b. A REPORT ON NORTHWESTERN POTATOES AND PEARS

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, submitted the following report on September 24:-

"The northwestern potato movement during the latter part of September was considerably heavier than for the corresponding period last season, 35 to 40 cars going forward almost daily from Washington. The Idaho shipments have been above 100 cars daily. Demand and trading in all important northwestern producing districts is reported slow; $10-$12 per ton (including sacks), f.o.b. cash-track, is the prevailing market in the Yakima Valley for well-graded U. S. No. 1 Russets. Eastern Washington potatoes are generally somewhat green.

Killing frosts have not been reported in any of the districts, and growers who are financially able are not digging except in a limited way. However, most growers are being forced to market a part of their crop on account of financial stringencies, which accounts for the rather heavy carlot movement.

"Marketing of Washington pears continues in fairly heavy volume. Values have an advancing tendency, and Extra Fancy Bartletts are bringing $1.50-$1.65 per box to shippers, with Fancy grade generally $1.35-$1.50. Growers and shippers alike are encouraged by the firm tone for the late market, although storage holdings are light."

4b. CROP NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK

R. L. Sutton included the following information in a letter of September 29 from the Rochester office:-

"Bartlett pears are about finished. The pear outturn so far this season has been only 458 cars, or fully 1,000 less than had moved to the same time last season. The Kieffer movement is yet to take place, but, with the shorter crop of Bartletts, a scarcity will undoubtedly also take place with Kieffers. Other varieties, such as Clapps, Boscs, and Seckels, do not assume much commercial importance.

"Trading in apples continues limited. There is a fair demand for Wealthys, but storage supplies of this variety are light. The season for New York peaches is drawing to a close and a good portion of the fruit remaining in storage is in only fair condition. The peach movement to date has approximated 800 cars, this being about 1,200 less than the roll to the same time last season. Last year's final amounted to 2,310 cars and it appears that the total rail movement for this season will be about 1,000 cars less.

"Cabbage trading continues slow and the market rules generally dull. The movement of Danish is becoming more active. Growers have received as low as $5 per ton for kraut cabbage, and $6 was generally the top for domestic-type. Danish has held mostly at $7-$8 cash to growers. The late Danish crop has not been cut to any extent, but with the advent of colder weather in early October harvest will get under way.

"Celery has shown a curtailed movement on account of the let-up in f.o.b. buying. The Golden Self-Blanching will be cut in an occasional field this week, but regular cuttings will not commence until around October 10. Unfavorable market conditions have turned a little more of the early varieties into storage than would ordinarily have gone that way. Even so, there has been hardly any early stock stored this season, as compared with last year, when heavy production of close-culture celery produced such an excess in the early varieties.

"The onion market is showing additional strength. Large sizes are scarce. So far this season, the 50-pound bag has been the popular container. Carrots have shown a little more activity recently."

5b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

During the past week the following field-station summaries were distributed:

"Marketing Michigan Apples, 1930 Season," by R. E. Keller.

"Marketing Western and Central New York Cabbage, 1930-31 Season," by R. L. Sutton and A. L. Thomas.

6b. CALIFORNIA GRAPES IN BETTER POSITION

A. E. Prugh sent the following report from Fresno on September 28:-

"Toward the end of the week of September 21, a better demand and firmer market was noted on Zinfandel and Muscat juice grapes. Very few Zinfandels remain in the Fresno district, most of them now coming from the North, and they are reported rapidly cleaning up in the Lodi district; also showing a considerable percentage of raisining and raisined berries. Starting the week of September 28, f.o.b. prices advanced slightly to $35-$37.50 per ton of Muscats or Zinfandels. The demand for Alicantes and Carignanes seems slow at $32.50.

"A good demand also developed on table Tokays the latter part of the week with an advance on September 26 to 90¢-$1 per lug. Tokay shipments have passed the peak and are having lighter competition from Thompsons and Malagas. Table Thompsons are rapidly cleaning up and a few are going out as juice stock. Malaga shipments are decreasing.

"Up to September 27, California grape shipments were running about 5,500 cars behind last year's movement to the same date. Movement for the week ending September 27 this season was 3,595 cars, compared with 5,880 for the same week a year ago.

"Percentages of variety inspections on leading varieties for the week ending September 22 were: Tokays 14.3%, Zinfandels 21.2%, Alicantes 28.3%, Muscats 14.2%, other black juice 15.3%, all others 6.7%.

"Comparison of weighted averages and number of packages of leading varieties sold in auction markets for the weeks ending September 25 and 18, 1931, and September 26, 1930, is as follows:

	THOMPSONS		MALAGAS		TOKAYS		ZINFANDELS		ALICANTES	
	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.
Sept. 25	108078	$1.54	84262	$1.37	157672	$1.46	118486	93¢	182001	91¢
" 18	141223	1.35	98924	1.22	158811	1.37	101266	88¢	99620	97¢
Sept. 26 last yr.	207629	$1.17	97990	$1.18	284446	$1.22	217123	98¢	234310	$1.05"

7b. MARKETING DIFFICULTIES FOR IDAHO POTATOES

The following report came from R. G. Risser, in charge of the Idaho Falls field station, under date of September 28:-

"The potato interests of Idaho are facing unusually difficult conditions this season. The producers are harvesting an abnormally light yield; the size and shape of the tubers are inferior, and the marketing situation is unfavorable. If Idaho potatoes were the only poor ones, a fair demand could probably be found for a certain quantity of the lower grades, but other western districts also are reported to have ample offerings of low-grade stock. Present difficulties have been somewhat aggravated by the fact that many growers are pressed for funds and have shipped much more heavily than usual at digging time. Both the heavy current movement and the immature condition of many shipments have had a very unfavorable reaction. The market for 'spots' and 'futures' has been weak, and shippers as well as growers have had a very unsatisfactory deal to date."

PORTLAND OFFICE, in addition to the regular market reports, is issuing a "Northwestern Weekly Dried Prune Market Report" each Thursday. On Sept. 19 the first of a series of periodical reports on Nuts was published at Portland.

8b. MICHIGAN APPLES DRAGGY; GRAPE SITUATION IMPROVING

R. E. Keller sent the following news from Benton Harbor in a letter of September 28:-

"The western Michigan apple situation is very slow and dull. Fall varieties, such as Wealthy, McIntosh, Alexander, Wolf River and Twenty Ounce, are about cleaned up, and the late fall and winter apples are meeting with such slow demand and low prices that farmers have delayed picking. Michigan's apple crop is now estimated to be the largest since 1923, and, with about 60% to 65% consisting of winter varieties, buyers are taking the fruit very slowly. Trading is mostly a hand-to-mouth proposition. One factor, however, that may greatly lower the output of high-grade late-keeping merchantable stock, is that of worm damage. Codling-moth infestation has been very severe in the southwestern part of the State. It is difficult to arrive at any figures on the actual damage, but the extent of the infestation, as reflected by reports of individual farmers interviewed, would indicate that from 5% to 25% of the stock is wormy and that from 10% to 50% is injured by worm stings, the exact percentage varying according to orchards. The hot dry summer has been very favorable for codling moths and, as a result, orchards which have not been carefully sprayed show heavy infestation.

"The grape outlook is improving. Cool weather and rains have retarded picking, and likewise stimulated the demand. As a result, prices have advanced. The portion of the crop remaining is light; so shippers are anticipating a continuation of the present improved conditions. Possibly the item of most note in the grape deal during the past week was the entrance of truckers into the Minneapolis and St. Paul markets. This is a haul of 575 miles from Benton Harbor. Until this time, the Twin Cities were the one large carlot outlet left for rail shippers. Truckers are hauling 12-quart jumbo baskets for 14¢ to 16¢, whereas the rail and refrigeration costs are around 22¢."

9b. A VALUABLE REPORT ON FLORIDA PRODUCTS

Frank H. Scruggs, formerly a member of our Market News staff and now associated with the Florida State Marketing Bureau at Jacksonville, has compiled a very interesting report of 18 mimeographed pages regarding Florida fruits and vegetables. It is entitled: "1930-31 Annual Fruit and Vegetable Report." It is largely statistical, including carlot shipments of a large number of products, f.o.b. returns, production costs, etc. Figures on citrus fruits are given in greatest detail.

In his preface, Mr. Scruggs says:- "The equivalent of 150,367 carloads of fruits and vegetables was harvested from the groves and fields of Florida last season, establishing a record movement, and the gross value of same, f.o.b. shipping point, plus $9,867,335 transportation charges within the State, reached the record sum of $97,077,214, as compared with $88,757,313 for the 1929-30 season."

Copies of this report probably can be obtained directly from the Florida State Marketing Bureau at Jacksonville.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably Will Close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P. O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears	Aug. 28	Oct. 17
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Sept. 19*
			Grapes	Sept. 21	Oct. 24
			Onions	Oct. 5	Oct. 24
			Potatoes	Oct. 7	Oct. 24
ROCHESTER, N. Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears	Sept. 2	Nov. 7
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches	Sept. 10	Oct. 3
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct. 31
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V.H.Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	R. M. Peterson	Apples	Sept. 15	Oct. 31
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
The following stations probably will open on dates indicated:					
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS ** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar.1
			Vegs.	Jan. 1	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
H. F. Willson en route to Florida
J. B. Owens in Detroit
W. D. Googe in Fort Worth
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. SEND IN SPECIMENS OF TEXAS GRAPEFRUIT SHOWING STEM END ROT

The Bureau of Plant Industry has requested the cooperation of the Inspection Service in making a study of Stem End Rot of Texas grapefruit. There are two causes of Stem End Rot: "Phomopsis citri"--"Diplodia natalensis," and the principal object of the study is to determine whether this disease in Texas is caused by only one or both of these organisms. Samples from cars inspected, showing Stem End Rot, should be sent to Dr. H. R. Fulton, B. P. I., Washington, D. C., until further notice.

2c. PROGRESS OF WEST VIRGINIA APPLE INSPECTION WORK

J. J. Gardner wrote the following letter from Martinsburg on Sept. 26:-

"I returned yesterday from a trip through the Ohio Valley district of W. Va., where we will probably inspect some 250 or 300 cars of apples, moving out from the vicinity of Mason City, Parkersburg and Huntington. We will have five inspectors located there, to take care of the whole district. Fruit in the Ohio Valley is not of as good quality as ordinarily, a very large part of it being heavily russeted, so that many cars will not meet U. S. No. 1 grade.

"Picking in the eastern panhandle has been fairly active on the early varieties, such as: Grimes, King David, Jonathan and Delicious. Just now a few growers have completed harvesting the early varieties and are waiting for Yorks to show sufficient maturity and color. Picking probably will not be in full swing before the week of October 11.

"As has been the custom for the past number of years, we conducted a training school for inspectors from the latter part of August to the first of September, with 43 men attending. We, of course, were unable to use all of these but did succeed in placing many of them in packing-houses as foremen. They were, by far, the best bunch of new material we ever had."

3c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Mackay and Lehman, Weslaco, Texas (Add $4.00 to previous amount)

The following should be taken from List of Past Due Accounts:

Wade and Newton,	San Benito, Texas	$4.00
Wagner Brothers,	Harrisburg, Pa.	$4.00

4c. CALIFORNIA TOMATOES MOVING

Tomato inspection is under way in the Santa Maria district of California, and the personnel has been increased to five men. In the San Jose district, shipments of tomatoes have been going slowly for some time. A few cars have left the Lincoln and Sacramento sections, and shipments shouls be well under way by the first of October. -(California Inspectors' Notes, September 25)

SHIPMENTS of fruits and vegetables have recently been running about one-fourth lighter than a year ago; they average only 3,000 cars daily.

5c. DIRT ON POTATOES AS RELATED TO GRADE

In determining whether a lot of potatoes is dirty enough to affect grade, the general appearance of the whole lot should be considered. It seems that some inspectors have formed the habit of adding a small percentage of dirt-caked potatoes to the percentage of other grade defects, and some lots have probably been certified below grade because of the combined percentage of grade defects (which included a few dirt-caked potatoes), when the lot generally was not sufficiently damaged by dirt to justify it. When there is not enough dirt to affect the general appearance, no attempt should be made to sort out and weigh separately the potatoes which are dirty enough to score against the grade. Dirt should be considered with relation to the general appearance of the whole lot rather than individual potatoes. Of course, when there is a considerable percentage of dirt-caked potatoes, the appearance of the lot is affected; in which case the percentage should be stated or it may be described in general terms, such as "many," "most," etc.

6c. MINNESOTA POTATO TAGGING AND BRANDING ACT

The potato tagging, labeling or branding Act passed by the Minnesota legislature, effective September 1, requires that "Potatoes grown in Minnesota, when packed for carload shipments or offered for sale by persons other than the growers or producers thereof in carload lots, and potatoes, when packed for truck-load shipments or offered for sale in Minnesota in truck-load lots, other than by the producer, shall be tagged, labeled, or branded U. S. No. 1, Minnesota Commercial Grade U. S. No. 2, Unclassified, or Minnesota Certified Seed."

The Act provides that "every closed package, containing potatoes offered or exposed for sale at wholesale or at retail in cities of the first and second class by persons other than the growers thereof, shall bear upon the outside of each package, either by brand, tag, or label in plain letters and figures, the grade of the potatoes therein contained and the minimum weight when packed."

7c. ENCLOSURES FOR INSPECTORS

With this D. L., each inspector will receive copies of the following: "The California Fruit, Nut and Vegetable Standardization Act of 1931." "Minnesota Seed Potato Inspection and Certification Law and Rules and Regulations, 1930-31."

These pamphlets were furnished through Mr. Pailthorp's office.

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT of the California Department of Agriculture, for the year 1930, has recently come to our attention. Included in this volume of 230 pages is a report on the work of Bureau of Shipping-Point Inspection, by W. F. Allewelt, and a report on the Bureau of Fruit and Vegetable Standardization, by S. S. Rogers. The latter includes a series of photographs, showing conditions in canning factories in 1910, compared with conditions in a modern cannery.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

States	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., P. O. Box 1347 San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Oct. 15
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 7
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, Charlottesville, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine.	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Apr. 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Winter Haven, Fla.	Citrus	Sept. 15	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas	Citrus	Oct. 1	Mar. 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, Brocton, N. Y.	Grapes	Sept. 28	Oct. 24

REPORTS on the following products can be obtained from offices indicated:-

Iowa products.....R. C. Lindstrom, Des Moines office.
Ohio products.....M. W. Baker, Columbus office
Indiana & Michigan onions...Federal-State Inspection, Warsaw, Ind.
North Dakota potatoes.....R. C. Hastings, State College Sta., Fargo.
Missouri apples.....F. M. Lyle, Kansas City office

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

ld. CANNERY TOMATO INSPECTION EXPERIMENTS IN CALIFORNIA

The following item has been copied from California Inspectors' Notes dated September 18:-

Experimental tests to determine the practicability of using the U. S. grades for cannery tomatoes in California are now well under way.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the State Department of Agriculture and the Canners League of California are cooperating in making the tests. R. L. Spangler, of the Washington Standardization project, and E. H. Bechis, of the California staff, have been busy the past three weeks, training inspectors and demonstrating the system of grading to interested canners. Official grading is being done at the Libby, McNeill and Libby plants at Sunnyvale and Sacramento and the California Packing Corporation plants at Fruitvale and Sacramento.

On Thursday of last week practical demonstrations were given at Sunnyvale and Fruitvale, for the purpose of acquainting interested canners with the system. Much interest was manifested by those present and most of them seemed to be favorably impressed with the system.

The grading consists of sorting the tomatoes from representative lugs of each load into No. 1's, No. 2's and culls, after which the separates are weighed, in order to determine the value of the load. No tolerance is provided in this system of grading. Where canners have contracted with growers for delivery of tomatoes on the basis of U. S. grades, the grower is paid according to the actual percentage of No. 1's and No. 2's delivered. A substantial premium is paid for No. 1 tomatoes. The No. 2 price closely approaches the flat rate. Culls are of no value. By establishing a price differential between the two grades, the grower has an incentive to improve the quality of his tomatoes. The higher the percentage of No. 1's, the greater the value is for the load, providing that the culls have been left in the field.

This system of grading has proven very popular with tomato canners in the States of Indiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Colorado and Utah. Approximately 200 canners in these States have contracted with their growers to deliver tomatoes on the basis of the U. S. grades this season.

So far, the tests being conducted show that the grades are adaptable to California tomatoes. Compilation of the results of the tests at the four plants will form a basis for fixing contract prices next year, in case California canners decide to adopt the system. Indications are that some California canners will contract for their tomatoes on the basis of U. S. grades in 1932.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization.

"A WORLD'S RECORD for apple production on a large orchard was achieved during last season on the Apple Lane Orchard Company tract at Quincy, Wash., when an average of slightly over 1,000 boxes per acre was packed out from the 157-acre orchard. A total of 158,130 packed boxes was checked out of the packing shed." - (Wenatchee, Wash., World)

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. ANOTHER FINE IMPOSED UNDER PRODUCE AGENCY ACT

Harvey Wynocker, who formerly operated in Philadelphia as Wynocker & Co., pleaded guilty on September 29 to a violation of the Produce Agency Act. The case involved failure to account for a truck shipment of apples and peaches made on July 16, 1929, by A. B. Davis, of Morristown, N. J. The complaint was investigated by W. L. Evans, who was the only witness examined at the trial. The court imposed the minimum fine of $100.

2e. AN IMPORTANT PRODUCE AGENCY CASE IN NEW YORK

A Produce Agency case which attracted considerable attention on the part of the local trade was tried in New York City last week.

Wm. Clark, Jr., and Ben Balish, who was operating under the name and with the consent and knowledge of the former, were brought to trial in the United States District Court, New York City, on September 23. Both pleaded not guilty and, owing to the involved nature of the firm's dealings, the trial was continued to September 24. As the trial progressed, the testimony of the Government witnesses became so damaging that, after the noon recess, Balish shifted his plea to guilty, Clark following suit.

U. S. District Attorney Frank, in his address to the jury, made quite clear the Government's belief that Balish was the one actually guilty of the fraud. Judge Anderson, of Memphis, Tenn., who occupied the bench, gave the following sentences:-

Ben Balish: $150 fine on each of three counts and nine months in the house of detention; jail sentence to be suspended, provided he pays to the Rocky Mountain Produce Co. within two weeks two-thirds of the net amount of which the shipper was defrauded, or $529.92, but to be on probation for a period of nine months.

Wm. Clark, Jr.: $50 fine on each of three counts and 30 days in the house of detention; jail sentence to suspended, provided he pays to the shipper within two weeks one-third of the amount involved, or $264.96.

The case related to three carloads of lettuce and one car of string beans, released to Wm. Clark, Jr., by the Rocky Mountain Produce Co., Denver, Colo., during August, 1930, to be handled on consignment. Ben Balish, in the name of Wm. Clark, Jr., reconsigned the cars to another dealer in New York City. The fraud was readily apparent upon comparing the accounts sales rendered to Wm. Clark, Jr., with those rendered in the name of Wm. Clark, Jr., to the Rocky Mountain Produce Co. It was shown in court that the Rocky Mountain Produce Co. should have received net proceeds of $943.92, whereas they actually received but $149.04.

The evidence in this case was developed by O. N. Harsha, of the Regulatory Branch. C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's office, assisted in the prosecution.

F. G. ROBB,
In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

A recent report indicates that the California peach pack has been completed with total production for sale to distributors about 7,900,000 cases, of which 413,000 cases were in southern California.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman is scheduled to give an address next Monday, October 5, at the regional conference of Red Cross chapters of southeastern South Carolina. The meeting will be held at Darlington, S. C., and Mr. Sherman will speak on:- "The Home Garden and the Public Health." He will be absent from his desk on Monday only.

R. R. Pailthorp is on leave a few days this week. Wm. E. Lewis, who had been in the field for about seven weeks, returned to the Washington office last Monday. He made investigations with respect to official grades for green corn for canning and recently spent considerable time in Maine on this work, after having conducted extensive experiments at a large cannery in Illinois.

In order to confer with New Jersey State officials and canners regarding possible inspection work on cannery tomatoes, Robert Bier spent Thursday at Trenton, N.J.

A. R. Spiker, of the Transportation Unit in Washington, returned to his desk on Wednesday after his month's trip to the Middle West in the interest of reports from railroads.

Paul M. Williams, in charge of the grading work on canned fruits and vegetables, is visiting the Memphis and Louisville offices on his return trip from Chicago this week. He is conferring with local representatives of this Division regarding the new service on canned products.

W. L. Evans, of the Regulatory Branch, and C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's Office, went to Philadelphia on Monday for the hearing of a Produce Agency case, Mr. Evans being a witness. Before returning to Washington, Mr. Evans is making investigations in other cases in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

J. W. Dykes, also of the Regulatory Branch, expects to leave Washington on Sunday for Chicago and Toledo, where he will make investigations under the Produce Agency Act. He plans to stop at Louisville, Ky., to attend a hearing under the Act in that market.

W. H. Steinbauer will leave Washington within a few days and make investigations under the P.A.C. Act in Pittsburgh and Akron.

M. C. Gregory, of the Fort Worth office, will be on leave all of next week; W. D. Googe will handle the market reporting work and A. H. Polster, of Dallas, the inspection work during Mr. Gregory's absence.

George C. Moye, a licensed inspector from North Carolina, stopped at the Washington office on Tuesday, en route to New York City, where he will assist with the inspection work for a few months.

A new phase of market reporting work will be developed in Texas this season. In view of the expected heavy crop of citrus fruits in the lower Rio Grande Valley, it has been decided to open the field station at Brownsville by October 15, and W. D. Googe will begin on that date to publish daily reports on citrus. The usual service on vegetables will start about January 1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 40 October 9, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for Publication

1a. FALL MOVEMENT OF PORTO RICAN GRAPEFRUIT AT ITS PEAK

The following letter was written by A. S. Mason, at San Juan, on October 2. It was postmarked at 3:30 P.M. on Saturday, the 3rd, and arrived in the Bureau at Washington by air mail at noon on Monday, which is very prompt mail service:-

"Next week will probably be the peak movement of the fall crop of Porto Rican grapefruit. There is a 62,000-box space reserved on two refrigerated boats sailing next Wednesday and Thursday. This is the largest space-reservation that has been made since I have been here, and the Porto Rico Fruit Union informs me that it is the largest reservation made in the last three years. Growers are making a very determined effort to ship every possible piece of mature fruit before Florida shipments become heavy.

"The market has shown a wonderful advance, and the auction sales in New York on Tuesday, September 29, averaged slightly above $4 for all fruit that graded U.S. No. 2, or better. Shipments will be heavy until the first of November, after which time they will slack-off; but there will be considerable fruit moved during November and December.

"When the English pound began to fall, growers were considerably worried as to what they were going to do with their small-sized fruit. The market seems to have taken the fruit the past two weeks at a very good figure, but there are still 100,000 boxes of 80's and smaller-sizes, which will be more or less of a problem to dispose of.

"On the 'Borinquen;' which sailed yesterday, the total grapefruit shipments were 40,400 boxes, or about 5,500 more than the refrigerated capacity. It is rather uncertain as to how this unrefrigerated fruit will arrive, but, considering market conditions, many growers were perfectly willing to take the chance.

"All over the citrus districts there is beginning to be a spotted, light bloom and, from the appearance of the trees, the general opinion is that there will be a medium-heavy bloom within the next 10 days or two weeks. This means that Porto Rico will be able to ship about its normal amount of grapefruit during the months of June, July and August."

2a. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GRAPE SHIPMENTS BY BOAT

In the D. L. for September 25, mention was made of the shipment by boat through the Panama Canal of a large number of lugs of California table grapes to New York City. A. E. Prugh, of the Fresno office, has since advised that this shipment of Tokays reached New York in good time, but that arrivals by boat sold on September 30 at an average of $1.19 per lug, compared with receipts by rail at an average of $1.72.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. MAINE POTATO PRICES GO LOWER

V. H. Nicholson reported as follows in a letter of October 3 from the Presque Isle office:-

"Prices of Maine potatoes continue to decline. Demand has been rather slow, even at lower prices, but it has been necessary to move some stock, as storage space will not be available for the entire crop.

"The prices to growers are probably the lowest on record. Growers have been getting mostly 35¢-40¢ bulk per barrel measure for U.S. No. 1 Green Mountains, delivered to the shipper's warehouse. Very few Cobblers are being sold just now, and the prices for this variety are close to the level for Green Mountains.

"Probably 65% to 75% of the crop is now under cover and, if the present favorable weather continues another week, it is quite likely that the crop will be harvested before any danger of an early freeze. Some rot has been showing up in the fields, and a few bins of potatoes that were stored early have been showing some rot. Some cars have arrived in markets in poor condition, but there have been very few complaints the last several days.

"Total shipments of Maine potatoes to date amount to only 3,805 cars, compared with 6,800 to the corresponding date last season and nearly 9,500 to this date in 1929. However, shipments compare favorably with those in the fall of 1928."

2b. SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN CROP NOTES

The following information came in a letter of October 3 from R. E. Keller, at Benton Harbor:-

"The Michigan apple market, except for McIntosh, continued very dull during the past week. For most varieties there has been little or no demand, and farmers are delaying picking. Most of the stock harvested this week was either destined to storage in nearby terminals or to cider plants. That is excepting McIntosh, of which several large sales were booked.

"With the advent of fair weather, grape harvesting has increased and offerings have been heavy. The peak of the grape harvest in Berrien County is expected the first of next week, and that in the Lawton-Paw Paw section is expected about a week later. Juice plants are now starting up and are reported to be taking the same percentage of this year's crop that they used a year ago. Juice plants are paying $40 per ton for all the No. 1 stock.

"Kieffer pears are now being harvested. The crop is quite light and, as a result, there is little more stock available than can be handled by the local canners. Very little of the crop is being marketed fresh. Canners are paying 80¢ per cwt. for U.S. No. 1, 2⅛ inch minimum stock. A few carlot sales have been reported for U.S. No. 1, 2 inch minimum stock at 85¢ per cwt. or 80¢-85¢ per bushel."

OCTOBER CROP REPORTS will be released at 3 o'clock Saturday, Oct. 10, even though Saturday afternoon is a holiday.

3b. WISCONSIN POTATO MARKET DULL

A. H. McDowell wrote as follows from Waupaca on October 4:-

"There has been very little change in the Wisconsin potato situation. Demand has generally been slow and the market dull. The Antigo and northern Wisconsin districts continue to originate most of the shipments. A few cars have been moved out of the central part of the State, but shipments probably will not assume any considerable volume for another week, as growing weather continues favorable and there has been no threat of frost. Reports from growers still indicate increased size, particularly in the late-planted fields."

4b. RECENT NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK

The following notes are abbreviated from a letter of October 6, written by R. L. Sutton, from Rochester:-

"The harvest of grapes in the important Chautauqua-Erie district is now in full swing, although the peak movement is not expected until around October 15. In the Finger Lakes district, it is understood that the height of the season has been reached or is close at hand. Juice plants in the Chautauqua-Erie belt are pressing heavily; one large cooperative association reported to be pressing 175 to 200 tons of grapes daily. The crop is large; good-quality fruit is being picked, and all that is needed is an active market to absorb the offerings. The f.o.b. situation has been rather unsettled.

"The f.o.b. trading in apples has been limited. At this time the movement into storage is active. General reports indicate that the quality of the crop is somewhat below average. The f.o.b. transactions in pears are almost at a standstill. Bartletts are cleaned up, Seckels are scarce, and Kieffer business has not been developed to any extent.

"The peach season has just about been completed. Movement for the season has not reached 1,000 cars, while this time last year approximately 2,300 cars had been shipped. This year, due to the very low prices prevailing, - especially during the time of heavy harvest, - a larger percentage of the crop was hauled by truck, left on the trees, or deteriorated in storage.

"The flurry that developed recently in onions seems to have subsided, so that under a moderate demand prices now are holding mostly at a steady level. Cabbage is showing an active movement.

"Late celery is reported to be showing comparatively small amounts of blight, with the activity of the tarnish plant bug being of more consequence than desired. A good rain and cooler weather will serve as an impetus to the crop of Golden Self-Blanching. Some Golden has already been cut, but there will be no harvesting of importance before October 12.

"The harvesting of potatoes has begun from the important carlot shipping counties. The market is very weak, and growers have been receiving mostly 25¢ bulk per bushel."

5b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

Four additional summaries of field deals have been issued this week:-

"Marketing Northwestern Apples, 1930-31 Season," by Mrs. L. B. Gerry.
"Marketing Idaho Potatoes, 1930-31 Season," by L. C. Tate.
"Marketing Michigan Onions, 1930-31 Season," by R. E. Keller.
"Marketing Wisconsin Potatoes, 1930-31 Season," by C. D. Schoolcraft.

6b. QUOTE NEW-CROP PEANUTS SEPARATELY FROM OLD-CROP PEANUTS

New-crop Spanish peanuts are now being shipped from the Southeast and the Southwest, and new-crop Runner type peanuts from the Southeast will soon be available. These peanuts are selling at unprecedentedly low prices. New-crop Virginia type peanuts will not be ready for shipment for two or three weeks, but sales are being made on new-crop stock for future shipment at prices lower than those now prevailing. When securing peanut prices, therefore, please be careful to inquire whether the prices, which are given, refer to old-crop or new-crop peanuts and, if the latter, whether for prompt or future shipment, and segregate the quotations in the wire to Washington in this manner. These instructions will be automatically cancelled, of course, when old-crop stock becomes exhausted.

If all market stations, preparing peanut reports for Washington, would compare the way they arrange their peanut reports with the way they appear in the Washington bulletin, and follow the latter form, much time would be saved in editing the peanut wires in Washington.

7b. FINAL REVISION OF 1930 SHIPMENT FIGURES

The final or revised shipment data for year 1930 have now been mimeographed in booklet form, and copies are being mailed to all market and field stations of the News Service. It is regretted that in mimeographing and asembling this material, an exact alphabetical arrangement of commodities was not followed by the mimeograph room, but all of the statistics are there and can easily be found by leafing through the booklet. In all cases, these final or revised shipment figures should now be used, in place of the preliminary reports issued last February.

8b. CODE CHANGES

The following code additions were wired to all ofices, to become effective on Friday, October 9:

On the "MI-MY" page, American Type Grapes, add -

UV Michigan Fancy table
UW Michigan No. 1
UX Michigan No. 2

On the same page of the code, change -

MYC to read "Michigan, 4-quart climax baskets, Michigan Fancy table"
MYD to read "Michigan, 12-quart climax baskets, Michigan No. 1" instead of "U. S. No. 1."

Effective Friday, October 16, add to the "I" page the following:

DIQ Upper Valley points
DIZ Twin Falls-Burley District

OFFICIAL NOTES:

W.D.Googe will leave Fort Worth by Saturday and proceed to Brownsville, Texas, where he will open the field station on citrus fruits by October 15.

J.B.Owens, who has been in Detroit, will go to Chicago by the end of this week and assist in that office. W.D.Hull, who has been helping with the Chicago market-news work, is now on leave in western New York.

9b. PROPER FORM FOR ANNUAL UNLOAD REPORTS

The uniformity in content and arrangement of the monthly unload reports should be continued in the annual unload summaries, issued by the market stations. It is requested, therefore, that all such summaries for 1931 include the following three tables as the first part of the report:

1. TOTAL CARLOT UNLOADS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT (City)
FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 1931, 1930, & 1929.

COMMODITY	1931	1930	1929	etc.

It will be noted that this will be the same as the material in the first table of the December unload report, under "Total Jan.1 to Dec. 31," except that all commodities will be listed separately in the annual summary. There will be no "Others."

2. TOTAL CARLOT UNLOADS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT (City)
BY STATES OF ORIGIN

STATE	1931	1930	1929	etc.

It will also be noted that this will be the same as in the second table of the December unload report, under "Total Jan. 1 to Dec. 31."

3. TOTAL CARLOT UNLOADS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT (City)
BY MONTHS AND BY STATES OF ORIGIN
1931

STATE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
APPLES													
etc.													

These three tables, the first two of which may cover additional years if desired, should be followed with such l.c.l. or truck receipts as are available in each particular market, together with combined totals of all receipts where available. Markets having boat receipts should, of course, include the usual statement; "Including boat receipts reduced to carlot equivalents," in the heading of each of the above tables.

Most offices, in the past, have made cover pages for the annual summaries. If well prepared, these are desirable, but as a matter of policy, the wording should conform in general to the following arrangement:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Market News Service
UNLOADS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT
(City)
CALENDAR YEAR 1931
(Office Address)
(City)
January, 1932

All market stations are requested to advise the Washington office that this outline has been noted, together with any questions or suggestions.

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News

(--Market news men should read Par. 1c on page 561, Sept. 25.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P. O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 24
			Pears *	Aug. 28	Oct. 7*
			Peaches*	Sept. 8	Sept. 19*
			Grapes	Sept. 21	Oct. 24
			Onions	Oct. 5	Oct. 24
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	Oct. 24
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears	Sept. 2	Nov. 7
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches *	Sept. 10	Oct. 3*
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct. 31
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V.H.Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	R.M.Peterson	Apples	Sept. 15	Oct. 31
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS ** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar. 1
			Vegetables	Jan. 1	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
J. B. Owens in Chicago
H. E. Rutland at Shin Pond, Me.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. CARE NECESSARY IN REPORTING SIZE OF PRODUCTS

"Mostly" in reporting size must not be determined by guesswork.

A car of onions, reported at shipping point as "mostly 1-3/4 to 2 inches in diameter," was found on appeal inspection to contain only 33% of this size onions. It appears that the shipping-point inspector did not make a careful determination by weight and probably guessed at the size of most of the onions. This practice must be discontinued, and no inspector should use the term "mostly" unless he has made accurate weights to determine the size of most specimens in any lot inspected.

The term "most" means more than 50%. In the case mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, the onions were "mostly 1-1/2 to 2 inches in diameter," as determined by actual weights. Moreover, it would be very unusual for most of a lot to fall within a quarter-inch range, when the extreme range between minimum and maximum is an inch and a quarter. In most cases, "mostly" will fall within a half-inch range, and a quarter-inch range for "mostly" will usually occur only when the extreme range in size is one inch or less. Supervising inspectors should insist on accurate determinations in this respect, because the detailed statements of size are often quoted by shippers to prospective buyers. The statement of size must be just as correct as the grade statement.

2c. A REPORT ON DELAWARE APPLE INSPECTIONS

F. S. Zimmerman, Supervising Inspector at Dover, Del., sent the following information under date of October 3:-

"Apples are moving slowly. We are not getting much certificate work, due to low prices, poor-quality fruit, and shipment of much of the poor quality by truck.

"Packing houses will start up, run for a day or so to fill an order, and then close down. There is no rush to get the fruit off of the trees, as in previous years. Since we have had a few cold nights, the color has improved on the fruit, but the quality has not improved because of great amount of damage by worms. Some of the growers are washing their fruit.

"The cannery at Camden will buy apples on a graded basis this year. We have one man handling the cannery work.

"A few years ago, when practically all shipments were by rail, most of the cars were certified. Now, a good part of the crop is shipped by truck and certificates are not required."

3c. CHANGES ON LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Gravis, Frank J.,	Alice, Texas	$4.00
Lotterhos & Huber Co.,	Crystal Springs, Miss.	$8.00
L. B. Graham,	Bowling Green, Ky.	$2.00

TOMATOES in Indiana were considerably below average this season, according to a report from J. E. Dickerson. Hot weather during the summer and heavy rains about three weeks ago damaged the crop. The tonnage, however, was considerably heavier than was anticipated two weeks ago.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

States	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg, P.O.Box 1347 San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
DELAWARE:	F. S. Zimmerman, c/o State Board of Agr., Dover, Del.	Apples	July 1	Oct. 15
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
INDIANA AND MICHIGAN:	J. E. Dickerson, Court House, Warsaw, Ind.	Onions	Aug. 15	Nov. 15
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 7
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, University, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine.	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Apr. 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Winter Haven, Fla.	Citrus	Sept. 15	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas.	Citrus	Sept. 20	Mar. 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, Brocton, N. Y.	Grapes	Sept. 28	Oct. 24

REPORTS on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R. C. Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N. D. Reports on products from other States can be obtained, as usual, from the supervisors in those States.

4c. CROP NOTES AND INSPECTION NEWS FROM COLORADO

E. F. McKune, of the Denver office, sent the following report in a letter dated September 28:-

"The inspection work in Colorado this year, to date, has been a series of upsets. This is one of those years when it is extremely difficult to figure on anything definite. For example, we had one of the best prospects for peaches in the history of the State but, because of low prices, many of the orchards were not harvested and shipments were irregular. For instance, - one day we were to have as high as 160 cars. The report would go out that the peaches were not worth the price of picking, and shipments the following day would drop to 30 or 35 cars, - perhaps to rise to 170 or more cars a few days later and again drop back to practically nothing.

"Head lettuce started off at $3-$3.50 per crate. By the time the better stuff was ready, it dropped to 50¢ a crate for No. 1 quality, cash to growers. Everyone became discouraged and left the crop in the field.

"Potato shipments have been extremely light to date and we estimate that there will not be more than 50% of last year's movement. The San Luis Valley has had a dry season and will probably ship not more than 3,000 cars from an acreage that should produce 12,000 or more. Wyoming will probably have a smaller crop than last year, but it will be spread more evenly during the shipping season. Nebraska may ship between 6,000 and 7,000 cars, with the possibility that we will inspect between 4,000 and 5,000. Last year Nebraska shipped approximately 10,000 cars."

5c. CITRUS INSPECTORS ACTIVE IN RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS

H. T. Longino, Supervising Inspector, sent the following report from Harlingen, Texas, on October 1:-

"Our citrus inspection work is growing rapidly each day. A three-day grading school was held here in Harlingen at the City Hall. We had a display of 100 specimens in the sample room of the Madison Hotel. Each student, shipper, or shed-manager attending the lecture and discussion on the grades was given a page with 100 blank spaces, in order that he might grade each specimen of the fruit display. After grading the fruit, we issued sheets with the 100 grade interpretations, by which their own answers could be checked. It seems that this created a most unusual interest, and several of the shippers went through the display two or three times. Many shippers required their shed-managers and graders to go through this display.

"We have 10 sheds operating, and I started the first Texas Citrus Fruit Exchange plant this morning. Will start four other plants of this concern before the end of the week. Indications are that the citrus work will require from 20 to 25 men within the next two or three weeks."

(See Par. 6c at bottom of next page)

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. MR. SPANGLER'S WORK COMPLIMENTED

Under date of September 29, one of the officers of the Canners League of California, at San Francisco, wrote the following letter regarding the cannery-tomato grading work in that State:-

"I have been going to write to you for sometime, giving a general outline of what has occurred in the tomato work. Unfortunately this year our first bloom did not set; so the deliveries of tomatoes for canning have been extremely light. In fact, we expect only about 30% of the production of last year.

"We have held several demonstrations in the tomato sections, and the United States grades have been very favorably received. I especially want to compliment Mr. Spangler on his very able manner in conducting these demonstrations. They have been very clear-cut and satisfactory in every way, and I believe that the canners have the greatest confidence in Mr. Spangler's handling of the demonstrations.

"We have four separate canneries keeping data on both the United States grades and their present methods. At the end of the season, these data will be gathered together and the results forwarded to your office.

"I cannot say at this time what the results will be, as far as the adoption of the United States grades by the canners is concerned. In any event, I feel that a number of them will utilize this grading system next year."

2d. SHORT GRADE FORMS SENT TO INSPECTORS

Copies of the short grade forms for spinach and bunched shallots have been sent to all inspectors. If anyone was overlooked, he should request copies from Washington.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization

-(continued from page 589)

6c. FAVORABLE SEASON FOR APPLES IN OHIO

M. W. Baker included the following report in a letter of October 6 from the Columbus office:-

"The apple situation is shaping up very nicely. The Grimes, Jonathans and a large portion of Delicious in southern Ohio have been picked. Romes, Bens, Ganos and Yorks started this week. Northern Ohio will clean up Jonathans and Grimes this week and probably start on Baldwins and Staymans next week. With the exception of russeting in southern Ohio and the codling moth on the ridges, the Ohio crop is exceptionally clean. A large portion of Jonathans in northern Ohio, as well as some Delicious, will easily grade Fancy. I was in one orchard in Columbiana County last week where fully 50% of the fruit shows color exceeding 75%.

"The tomato work has passed its peak, and I am of the opinion that the inspection work in general will be very light after November."

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1c. DECISION MADE IN A P.A.C. CASE IN WASHINGTON

The Secretary of Agriculture has issued an order involving decisions on several important points and awarding damages in the sum of $204.16 to the complainant in a case brought under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act by C. H. Musselman Co., Biglerville, Pa., against Wm. W. Leishear & Son, of Washington, D. C.

On or about September 3, 1930, the respondents purchased from the complainant one carload of U. S. No. 1 Elberta peaches at the agreed price of $2.25 per basket, f.o.b. shipping point. Upon arrival of the car at Washington, the respondents failed and refused to accept it; whereupon the complainant was forced to resell the car at $204.16 less than it would have received, had respondents accepted the car at the agreed sale price.

Fundamental decisions made by the Secretary in this case are that, because the peaches were sold f.o.b. Pennsylvania shipping point and because the last act in consummating the sale was performed in Pennsylvania, the contract must be construed under the Pennsylvania Uniform Sales Act; that under this statute a broker's memorandum of sale is binding, if the broker acted as agent of both parties; that the broker did so act in this case; that a letter written by respondents subsequent to the transaction and admitting purchase is also a sufficient memorandum; that, when car was correctly billed by complainant, it should not be held responsible for the error of an employee of the originating railroad in routing car for delivery on a line other than that specified by the respondents; that billing car by shipper to itself "advise Wm. W. Leishear & Son," with draft attached, did not affect the passing of title to buyer upon delivery to the carrier; that the specification "good color," when used in connection with the specification "U.S. No. 1 Elberta peaches," means good color for that grade, which may be without color, and is met by peaches which are described as "mostly fairly-well colored."

The respondents denied that there was a written contract between the two parties; that B. M. Knobel, the broker who negotiated the sale, was respondents' agent or was authorized by respondents to enter into a contract with complainant, and that a carload of U. S. No. 1 Elberta peaches was ordered from the complainant. On the other hand, respondents claimed that the broker solicited the respondents' purchase of peaches of good quality and color, to be delivered over the Pennsylvania Railroad with Washington inspection; that respondents inspected the peaches on arrival at Washington, found them to be soft, overripe, badly bruised and, furthermore, that the peaches were billed "Baltimore and Ohio" instead of "Pennsylvania R. R." delivery.

Parties agreed that the peaches were sold f.o.b. shipping point in Pennsylvania; therefore, unless a different intention was expressed by the parties, delivery of the peaches was made and title thereto passed upon acceptance thereof by the carrier at shipping point. The record shows that the broker wired complainant for confirmation of the sale. It shows that the complainant did confirm the sale, for on the following day the broker issued a confirmation thereof. This confirmation is not the contract of the parties but a memorandum or confirmation of what the prior contract was. In view of these facts, the sales contract should be considered as having been made in the State of

Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is one of the States where the Uniform Sales Act has been adopted. Under that Act, a broker's memorandum of sale, even though not signed by respondents, is a sufficient memorandum, if the broker acted, in negotiating the sale, as the agent of both parties. The record indicates that the broker did act in this case for both parties, in carrying on negotiations and in transmitting offers and counter-offers between them. It is held, therefore, that the broker's confirmation of sale is a sufficient memorandum to meet the requirements of the statute. Moreover, one of the exhibits forming a part of the record is a writing, signed by respondents personally, dated October 28, 1930, and addressed to Eric Englund, Acting Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, setting out the terms of purchase and is therefore a sufficient note or memorandum, irrespective of broker's authority to act as agent for both parties.

Respondents claim that the rejection of the peaches was justified because the car arrived in Washington over the Baltimore and Ohio instead of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The record shows that the complainant routed the car over the Reading Railway and Pennsylvania Railroad and the clerk of the Reading office at Biglerville erroneously billed the car over the Baltimore and Ohio. The peaches were sold f.o.b. shipping point. The title to the peaches therefore passed to respondents as soon as delivery was made to the carrier at shipping point. Any error on the part of the receiving carrier, in turning the car over to a delivering carrier other than the one specified by complainant, should not make complainant accountable for such error. In an f.o.b. shipping-point sale, carrier ordinarily transports goods for the buyer and not the seller.

Respondents also contended that, because the peaches were consigned by shipper to itself, "advise Wm. W. Leishear & Son," draft covering purchase price being attached to the bill of lading, the title of property did not pass to the respondents prior to payment of the draft by them. The record shows that the purpose in making the shipment in this manner was to secure payment before delivery was made of the commodities sold, such drafts being treated as deposits. Court decisions uphold the view that billing a car in the manner this one was billed does not affect the operation of the well-recognized rule at law that, in an f.o.b. shipping-point sale, the title passes to buyer upon delivery of the goods to the carrier,

Respondents further claim that the peaches were rejected because they were not of the quality purchased, being of poor color and overripe. Broker's memorandum of sale specified "good quality and good color." The shipping-point inspection certificate shows that the stock graded U.S. No. 1, and as to quality and condition of the peaches said: "stock is mature, hard to firm, ripe, mostly firm, poorly to well, mostly fairly-well colored." The shipping-point certificate is the only evidence in the record as to the quality and condition of the peaches upon the date of purchase. They were inspected at Washington after arrival, but as to condition only.

While a true description of the peaches as to quality at Washington is of some value in establishing quality at shipping point, yet the testimony above referred to is unsatisfactory as a basis for a finding of fact in respondents' favor, because such testimony consists largely in conclusions expressed by the witnesses and does not adequately describe the peaches. The certificate of the shipping-point inspector clearly shows that in his judgment the peaches were mature, hard and firm. The buyer specified that these

peaches were to be of U.S. No. 1 grade and also of good quality and good color. The shipping-point inspection shows that the peaches were U.S. No. 1 grade. The U.S. No. 1 grade for peaches contains no color requirements whatever; the U.S. Fancy grade provides that Elberta peaches, the variety involved in this case, must have at least 25% of color, and, under instructions issued by the Department to its inspectors, Elberta peaches which have 25% of color are to be considered as well-colored. Since U.S. No. 1 grade contains no color requirements and since Elberta peaches which are well-colored meet the requirements of the U.S. Fancy grade, it is considered that a specification of good color for U.S. No. 1 grade is met, if the peaches are "mostly fairly-well colored," as was the case in this instance.

The Secretary, therefore, found that the respondents, Wm. W. Leishear & Son, rejected the car of peaches in question without reasonable cause and ordered that they should pay the complainant the sum of $204.16 in reparation, on or before September 30, 1931. It was further ordered that the facts be published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

2e. PUBLIC HEARINGS UNDER P.A.C. ACT

The Department has announced the following schedule of public hearings, to be held under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act:-

Date	City	Names of Parties Involved
Oct.		
14	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Erle E. Emery v. Penn. Macaroni
17	Columbus, Ohio	C. L. Buck & Son v. Sanson Fruit Co.
19	Kenton, Ohio	Baker Produce Corp. v. Vernon Schultz
20	Toledo, Ohio	McClintic & Co. v. Abdo Brothers
22	Detroit, Mich.	Stoerk Dist. Co. v. L. Horowitz
26	Chicago, Ill	Fly v. Eck
26	" "	Berger v. Eck
27	" "	Alexander Mktg. Co. v. Coppersmith
29	" "	Wilson v. Biggio
30	" "	John Bonura v. C. A. Kerr
Nov.		
2	Chicago, Ill.	Tedford Bros. v. Piowaty, Berliner Co.
4	Madison, Wis.	Applegrowers Assn., Inc. v. J. Heilprin &Co.
6	Minneapolis, Minn.	Arthur S. Glore v. Morris Frt. & Produce Co.
	Wenatchee, Wash.	McKeecher v. Denison Co.
	Zillah, Wash.	Hood River v. Woodall
	Salt Lake City, Utah	F. S. Okutani v. Nelson Anson Co.
	Los Angeles, Calif.	Becker & Co. v. Pacific Fruit Co.
	Los Angeles, Calif.	Interstate Fruit Dist. v. E. H. Eskew &Sons

3e. HELP TO LOCATE CHARLES WARD

The Regulatory Branch desires to locate Charles Ward, whose last-known address was Kansas City, Mo., where he operated under the name of Chas. Ward and also Chas. Ward Brokerage Co. He is supposed to have gone to California. Any employee having information regarding this man's present address should communicate with H. A. Spilman, in the Washington office. Please note that this does not refer to the Charles Ward who is a buyer and distributor, with headquarters in Los Angeles, Calif., but who, in season, operates in Turlock and the Imperial Valley. These two men should not be confused, as we have no grievance with the latter.

- F. G. ROBB, in Charge.

OFFICE NOTES:

On Wednesday about 2 o'clock, Mr. Sherman attended the Fourth Pan-American Commercial Congress, being held this week in the Pan American Building, and gave a brief informal talk on "The Plan of Standardizing Fruits and Vegetables in the United States." As rapidly as he talked, his words were interpreted in Spanish to his foreign listeners.

R. R. Pailthorp spent Wednesday and Thursday in New York City, conferring with representatives of this Bureau and with handlers of pineapples concerning the proposed revision of the Federal grades for that product.

R. L. Spangler, also of the Standardization Project, expects to leave California by the end of this week and proceed on his return trip to the Washington office. He probably will take a few days' vacation in Colorado en route, and may also stop at the Chicago office for a short period.

B. C. Boree, in charge of market news work, plans to leave Washington about next Wednesday, October 14, for an extensive field trip in the interest of this work. His itinerary calls for stops at Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, Idaho Falls, Spokane, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Brownsville, Kansas City and St. Louis. He may be absent for six weeks.

Robert Bier left on Wednesday night for a tour of apple shipping points in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. He will meet the Supervising Inspectors in those districts and will journey with these supervisors throughout the territory, assisting in the solution of problems connected with the inspection work on apples particularly. He may not return until about October 17.

J. W. Dykes, of the Regulatory Branch, had to change his proposed field trip under the Produce Agency Act. He has gone first to Trenton, N. J., and after that will proceed to Louisville, Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, making investigations under this Act.

C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's Office, and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan(stenographer) expect to leave early next week for an extended trip in the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act. They will attend public hearings at various points in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, California and Utah. The schedule for these P.A.C. cases appears on another page of this D. L.

H. E. Conklin, Jr., of the Chicago inspection office, was in Detroit on Wednesday and in Cleveland on Thursday and Friday, conferring with the inspectors in those markets. He will return to his headquarters by the end of the week. All of next week, Mr. Conklin plans to be with G. W. Christenson, Supervising Inspector, in the potato shipping districts of Minnesota and North Dakota.

J. E. Dickerson has completed his supervision of cannery tomato inspection work in Indiana and has now moved his headquarters to Warsaw, from which place he will supervise the onion inspection work at shipping points in Indiana and southern Michigan.

T. W. Ayres should be addressed at University, Va.,- not Charlottesville.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 41 October 16, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

IMPORTANT:- Please acknowledge at once that you have noted the following item.

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. USE OF PERSONALLY-OWNED AUTOMOBILES DISCONTINUED

It has become necessary to request, until further notice, the immediate discontinuance of the use of personally-owned automobiles for official travel, except for relatively long trips such as between permanent or temporary posts of duty. Each trip of this nature must be authorized in advance by the Washington office. This does not apply to travel paid for by a State or other agency under cooperative agreement.

Reimbursement for mileage for the use of personally-owned automobiles, not only at branch offices and field stations but for travel in the territory surrounding same, has been held by the Comptroller General to be in violation of Act of February 14, 1931, which repealed the law authorizing payment of mileage for the use of personally-owned automobiles at posts of duty, and reimbursement for such use cannot be made. Thus far, no ruling has been issued, stating definitely the distinction between "travel on official business away from his designated post of duty," which is the wording of the law, and "travel at a designated post of duty." It was the understanding originally that a post-of-duty area was limited to the corporate limits of the city or town, but in this understanding it appears that we have been incorrect. Prior and specific authority for each trip for which mileage is to be claimed is also required, thus rendering void the general authority contained in existing letters of authorization. The whole question of mileage is being taken up with the Comptroller General and, when he has rendered a decision, information as to the outcome will be issued. In the meantime, no use of personally-owned automobiles, for which it is expected to claim reimbursement for mileage from the Government, should be made, except as specifically outlined above.

2a. FIRST REPORT OF COLD-STORAGE APPLES

The following figures on apples in cold storage October 1 were released by the Bureau at Washington last Tuesday:-

	Barrels	Boxes	Baskets
October 1, 1931:	388,000	2,943,000	1,905,000
October 1, last year:	500,000	2,135,000	1,982,000
Five-year average:	564,000	1,548,000	1,187,000

Total cold-storage holdings are equivalent to 2,004,000 barrels, or 7% more than last year and 36% above the five-year average for October. About 90% of the boxes were held in Pacific Coast States. Storage figures do not reach their peak until about December 1.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. POTATO HARVEST IN MAINE NEARLY COMPLETED

The following letter of October 10 came from V. H. Nicholson, at Presque Isle:-

"For the first time since the middle of September, the market for Maine potatoes has shown some signs of strengthening. Most of the loaded cars held on track have been moved, and there is generally a more healthy situation. The street price has been holding around 30¢-40¢ bulk per barrel measure to growers, with most stock moving at 35¢. In the northern part of the district, particularly north of Caribou, the price to growers has been as low as 25¢ bulk per barrel of U.S. No. 1 Green Mountains.

"It is quite probable that 90% of the potatoes are out of the ground and under cover. Practically all storage space is filled, and much stock is in farmer storages and barns. Much of the stock stored on the farms must be moved before cold weather. Temperatures have already fallen below the freezing point a few times, but practically no damage was reported. Some of the stock that has been stored is showing rot, and in certain sections of the district some rot has been showing up in the fields."

2b. INTERESTING NOTES FROM THE NORTHWEST

The following comments were submitted by T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, under date of October 8:-

"The market on potatoes in eastern Washington is in an unfavorable position, and prices are generally low. During the past week, growers have shown an inclination toward moving the crop into storage rather than accept prices lower than the cost of production, but buyers have been able to get their needed supplies within a range of $12-$14 on U.S. No. 1 stock, sacked per ton. The Washington Combination Grade is not being so generally offered this season. Growers and shippers, by grading on the basis of U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 specifications, are placing Washington potatoes on a competitive basis with stock from other producing States.

"The onion market holds steady to firm in all northwestern producing districts. Buyers operating in eastern Washington are absorbing all marketable offerings and are holding the situation well under control. Valencia-type U.S. No. 1 grade onions are bringing $25-$30, sacked per ton, cash to the growers. There are reports of some speculations on sizes 3-inches and up, with buyers holding these large sizes for a late market.

"Apple harvest has passed its peak in the Yakima and Wenatchee valleys. Jonathans and Delicious are mostly picked, while Winesaps and other late varieties will be off the trees before the end of this month. Economic conditions in Great Britain have been responsible for cancellation of many orders, but, parts of Continental Europe, especially the Scandinavian countries, have been good buyers of boxed apples. Small sizes again are scarce. Domestic dealers are of the opinion that the market for all varieties will strengthen after the end of October, and the crop has been placed in storages."

3b. IMPORTANT CROP NEWS FROM MICHIGAN

R. E. Keller included the following news in a letter of October 10 from the Benton Harbor office:-

"Production and quality of Michigan's late-crop potatoes are extremely variable. Tubers produced from Cadillac north show excellent yields, many of them going as high as 350 bushels per acre. And the quality is fine, the stock running large and clean. Roughly, this is the same area that produced practically all of the merchantable stock harvested last season, when only 3,379 cars were reported as moving, and yields are of course much better in this area than last year. The major part of the State's potato acreage, however, is south of Cadillac. Both yields and quality reported from sections south of Cadillac are very discouraging. Rainfall has been below normal for the past 18 months, and especially so during the summer. As a result, yields are very light. In addition to drought, there were periods of extreme heat during July and August, accompanied by hot winds. Potatoes now being harvested in central Michigan show internal browning, and upon cooking the vascular tissues turn dark. Montcalm County, formerly the center of Michigan's potato industry, is reported as being very hard hit.

"Michigan will have a larger crop of good potatoes from the northern part of the State than last year, but the same problem of heat-injury and discolored stock will be prevalent from the central and southern parts, which caused so much complaint a year ago. Cash-to-growers prices are very low, most sales being made around 30¢ per cwt.

"Latest reports from the onion sections are to the effect that most stock is rapidly being bought. Most of the onions are stored in local warehouses.

"Demand for apples remains very slow, with few f.o.b. sales being consummated. Farmers are delaying picking as long as possible, while shippers are either storing stock in local storages or rolling to nearby cities for placement in cold-storage. Cider plants are paying 17¢-20¢ per cwt. at most shipping stations. Demand has been very inactive from the trucking trade. Very few apples have moved over the Benton Harbor cash market, in comparison with last year. Present offerings are ranging from 5 to 10 cars daily. The decrease in the trucking demand is even more pronounced than for rail offerings. Rail and boat forwardings to date total 685 cars, as against 1,016 a year ago.

"Michigan's grape harvest is about 70% completed. Active demand and high prices from the trucking trade are practically eliminating carlot shipments. Shippers who previously solicited carlot business in the cities 400 to 600 miles distant are now supplying their trade by truck, selling on a usual-terms basis. Trucks haul more cheaply, deliver their goods more quickly, and supply quantities small enough so that receivers can dispose of them quickly. Grape forwardings to date total 466 cars, compared with 1,363 last year. It appears likely that the season's rail movement will be around 500 cars."

4b. ANOTHER SUMMARY PUBLISHED

"Marketing Western New York Apples, 1930-31 Season," by R. L. Sutton and A. L. Thomas, is a new summary distributed this week.

- ALL BRANCH OFFICES, Please Note:-

Please forward your pay rolls to Washington unsigned. An explanatory item in The B.A.E. News will follow soon.

5b. LONG ISLAND POTATO SEASON DISCOURAGING

E. R. Biddle, of the New York City office, sent the following report on Long Island potatoes and cauliflower in a letter of October 8:-

"The potato season on Long Island is progressing with about the same success as the other late-potato sections. The market has been very dull ever since the season started, and has gradually been getting weaker. The stock has been generally good, although at times there has been considerable trouble with sunscald during the extremely hot weather of the past month.

"There are two potato districts on Long Island, designated as the North Side and the South Side. This is caused by the forked nature of the Island at the eastern end; most of the potatoes are grown on one or the other of these forks. Usually the stock on the South Side is of better quality and is graded better than that of the North Side. The North Side grows the greather percentage of the crop, and most of the dealers operating on a large scale handle only North Side stock. Practically all the South Side stock is loaded bulk and handled in New York.

"Most of the North Side potatoes are sacked. Practically all of the important shippers have had shipping-point inspection service this year and planned to put out a greatly-improved pack, but the condition of the market has given them little encouragement.

"I have had several verbal thanks and expressions of appreciation of the reports that we have been rendering in the way of a news service for this district.

"This same section is also the center of the Long Island cauliflower industry, Calverton and Riverhead being the principal growing points. The early prospects were for a good crop of cauliflower, but fields have needed rain badly for some time and the unseasonably hot weather for the past two weeks has damaged the crop materially. A considerable portion of this crop is being sold at auction at the stations. They have been selling from 2,000 to 5,000 crates a day during the past few days, at an average of around $1 per crate."

6b. BRIEF NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK

A very complete, detailed reported on eight important western New York crops was receive from R. L. Sutton, at Rochester, under date of October 14. The report opens with this excellent summary, which gives the gist of the entire situation:-

"Expressed in a terse manner, the marketing situation in western and central New York appears as follows: Apples - Demand rather sluggish; most stock going into storage; movement out of cold storage light. Pears - Fair demand but offerings light; few Seckels left and Kieffers showing short crop. Canners taking bulk of Kieffers. Grapes - Shipments active. Now in midst of peak movement. Market in better shape, demand more satisfactory. Juice plants operating heavily and truck movement important. Cabbage - Demand improving - showing tendency for slight rise. Movement lighter. Celery - Mostly steady - demand only fair. Into-storage movement of late crop becoming active. Onions - Movement curtailed,- operators holding off, anticipating increase in values. Potatoes - Values at low level but trade showing slightly more interest. Outturn increasing. Carrots - Market mostly unchanged; former values mostly prevailing."

7b. SOME IMPROVEMENT FOR WISCONSIN POTATOES

A. M. McDowell has submitted the following information in a letter of October 11 from Waupaca, Wis.:-

"After having declined slowly but steadily for the last few weeks, f.o.b. prices of potatoes made a slight advance the latter part of the past week, rising from a level of around 50¢ to a general range of 55¢-60¢, with a few cars reported as high as 65¢ per cwt. Prices paid to growers also advanced, with a top of 45¢ bulk per cwt. reported, although at some points, particularly in the northern part of the State where the freight rate is slightly higher, only 30¢ was being paid.

"Although most of the vines are still green, growers fear the approach of freezing weather and digging has become general over the entire State, but was somewhat retarded during the latter part of the week by wet weather.

"Distribution to date has been almost entirely to the Central States, with over 80% of the shipments destined to points in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Most of the remainder have gone to adjoining States, although a few cars have been billed to points in the Southeast."

8b. CROP AND MARKET NOTES FROM COLORADO

Bryce Morris sent the following report from Denver on October 10;-

"Colorado potato shipments for the past week continued to range around one-third of last year's movement. Harvesting was expected to be completed in the San Luis Valley this week. About two-thirds of the harvest is completed in northern Colorado, while the Carbondale and Montrose sections have only begun to dig the 1931 crop. Farmers are reluctant to sell at the present low prices, with the result that much of the crop is moving into storage. The bulk of potatoes moving to the trade from northern Colorado are being loaded in mixed cars.

"The past week saw the peak movement of cauliflower from the Arkansas Valley. Shippers estimate 150 to 175 cars remaining to be shipped from the State. Prices have dropped sharply this week, but the quality in general is improving. With cooler weather, the aphis damage has been held in check. Shippers are generally endeavoring to hold the quality to U.S. No. 1, with aphis damage the chief defect encountered.

"Cabbage loadings were light, in line with the light supplies. Prices were generally higher than last week, but, with heavier shipments from eastern States, the carlot demand has slackened considerably. Some shippers estimate as little as 100 cars remaining for future shipment. The mixed vegetable movement has been liberal, with packers finding difficulty in supplying cabbage for mixed cars. No killing frosts have been experienced in the immediate vicinity of Denver to date."

9b. SUPPLEMENTARY PRICE REPORT ON NORTHWESTERN APPLES AND PEARS DISCONTINUED

The supplementary price report on apples and pears, which was issued for many years by the Spokane office, has been discontinued, as several important shippers stopped furnishing their detailed records of sales. This daily report consisted of a complete tabulation of all sales reported by the shippers and was issued to provide comprehensive information regarding f.o.b. prices in the Pacific Northwest.

10b. CALIFORNIA GRAPE SEASON PROBABLY PAST PEAK

A. E. Prugh wrote as follows from Fresno in a letter dated October 12:-

"On this date (Oct. 12), it is estimated that there are less than 300 cars of Muscats and 400 cars of Tokays remaining to be shipped. There has been a good demand for Tokays lately, with general quality only fair after the first crop was picked. Emperors are starting at 15 to 20 cars a day, with a wide price range on account of early stock not showing the proper color. Zinfandels are practically cleaned up, with a few cars moving from the northern district. Alicantes are in heaviest supply and continue with very little demand. Up to October 6, movement by varieties compared with the same date last year had been about as follows; Zinfandels 2,749-4,594; Carignanes 1,529-1,600; Alicantes 3,589-5,637; Muscats 1,945-4,280; Tokays 2,829-4,434.

"Total California grape shipments to October 11 have been 25,305 cars, compared with 37,901 to the same date last year. Local estimates for the total season's movement range between 35,000 and 40,000 cars, depending on market conditions. Total last year was about 65,000 cars.

"For the week ending October 6, percentages of varieties inspected were as follows:- Tokays 5.1%; Zinfandels 5%; Alicantes 32.3%; Muscats 14.6%; other blacks, mostly Carignanes, 34.8%; others 8.2%.

"It is interesting to note comparative prices this season and former seasons. Alicantes last week, for example, sold mostly at $32.50 per ton; same week last year $32.50-$40; same week 1929 $45-$62.50; same week 1928 $47.50-$50; same week 1927 $65-$85. A range of $35-$40 on Muscats was practically the same as former seasons with $32.50-$42.50. The f.o.b. price last week on Tokays, $1-$1.15 per lug, was much better than the same week last year of 55¢-65¢. However, the crop of Tokays this season is much lighter.

"Prices paid growers on Thompson raisins have dropped from 4¢ to 3½¢, the decline apparently caused partly by the drop in value of the British pound

"Comparison of weighted averages and number of packages of leading varieties sold in auction markets for the weeks ending October 9 and October 2 this year and October 10 last year, is as follows:

	THOMPSONS		MALAGAS		TOKAYS		ZINFANDELS		ALICANTES	
	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.
Oct. 9	81768	$1.79	113234	$1.43	148212	$1.85	86953	$1.10	506377	93
Oct. 2	89840	$1.71	90088	$1.48	151857	$1.72	88313	$1.02	312431	94
Oct. 10 last yr.	154053	$1.39	84690	$1.41	227467	$1.33	96769	$1.21	598561	$1.27

11b. IDAHO POTATO INDUSTRY HAS MANY PROBLEMS THIS YEAR

In a letter of October 12 from R. G. Risser, at Idaho Falls, he states that, because of the poor prices prevailing, the large percentage of low-grade potatoes in the Idaho crop this season is adding greatly to the difficulties of marketing. In addition to the problem of utilizing or disposing of these lower grades, the presence of such a large proportion of stock which is now almost worthless is adding to the cost of harvesting, hauling and grading of the marketable product. Mr. Risser adds:-

"In one district, many of these low-grade potatoes have been going to the potato flour mill, but its capacity is limited and it can use only the locally-grown stock on which transportation charges are very small. Some producers have already filled their farm cellars to capacity and are leasing storage space in commercial warehouses. Others, unwilling or unable to pay for storage, are improvising field pits or simply covering their potatoes in piles."

- WENDELL CALHOUN, Marketing Specialist

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. SPRING BALANCES SHOULD BE TESTED BY SUPERVISING INSPECTORS

For sometime it has been the practice to check-up on the accuracy of scales used in receiving-point work at least twice a year. It has been found that the scales used in the inspection work are not always accurate, and it is possible for them to be a pound or two off and affect the accuracy of the percentages of grade defects which are determined by weight. Scales used for shipping-point work should be tested as frequently as possible, because they are often subject to extreme wear and tear. Shipping-point supervisors should arrange to test the scales of all men working under their direction at least twice a year and will be depended upon to keep a check of the accuracy of their scales.

2c. HEAVY INSPECTION WORK IN STATE OF NEW YORK

J. A. Marks wrote the following letter, chiefly regarding grape inspections, from Brocton, N. Y., on October 9:-

"I reported at Brocton on September 29 and found the grape work already in full swing. While the season is somewhat later than usual, the growers were in a hurry to start picking, and heavy shipments and hot weather have demoralized the market. While the quality of the crop has been good, the first week or so we found a good many red bunches and most of the stock was only fairly sweet.

"The early shipments turned out to be much larger than we expected and this was the heaviest September we have ever had in the Chautauqua-Erie belt. Previous to October 1, we inspected 268 cars. This was also the heaviest month's inspection work they have ever had in the State. In addition to the southwestern New York grape work, 1,303 cars were inspected on Long Island and 961 out of the Rochester office, making a total of 2,532 cars for the month.

"Prices to growers started around $25 per ton but soon declined, and the general price has been from $15 to $20. The past week, some of the larger shippers have been accepting grapes only on consignment. A concerted effort has been made the past few days to cut down shipments, and some stations have closed until Monday, October 12. This should give the track holdings a chance to clean up and, with the cooler weather that arrived yesterday morning, there is a likelihood of some improvement in the market.

"I am expecting a good many re-inspections for condition in the markets. Since the movement has been so slow, many cars have been held on track for a week or more after loading and, where these were not iced, the condition of the grapes has been deteriorating rapidly. I have seen some of this stock that showed fruit flies swarming about the load and practically all the split and crushed grapes showing mold or decay.

"The juice plants are taking a much smaller percentage of the crop than in preceding seasons. Most of them have a heavy carry-over of juice from last year and some have not opened for pressing this season. More of the stock is going out by truck than ever before, but, if the market justifies shipping the entire crop, we anticipate more inspections than even in 1928, when we inspected 2,600 cars on the New York State side of the Chautauqua-Erie belt."

3c. MANY POTATOES OF POOR QUALITY IN IDAHO

L. G. Schultz sent the following report in a letter of October 6 from Boise, Idaho:-

"I returned last Saturday night (Oct. 3) from a two weeks' trip covering the eastern part of this State and the western part of Montana. I found conditions in eastern Idaho quite discouraging, for the quality in many sections is far below normal, especially as regards misshapen potatoes. There does not appear to be so many growth-knobs, but there is an excessive quantity of off-shaped stock, often resulting in 50% to 75% of No. 2's and culls. I saw one lot being graded in a warehouse, that did not run 10% No. 1 potatoes. This is an extreme case, but there are many who believe that there will not be more than 25% or 30% No. 1's in the crop this year. This will make it extremely difficult for our inspectors, for when this condition prevails the general appearance of the lot is materially affected, even after 75% or more of the stock has been sorted out.

"We are doing everything we can to hold our inspections as high as possible, but many growers and shippers feel that we are too strict in our interpretation, and I know that receivers feel we are too lenient on account of the generally poor appearance of most stock.

"Conditions in Montana are very similar, although I do not believe there will be any great volume of stock moving out of the State. It is certain that there will be more cars shipped into Montana than will be shipped out. The McIntosh apple crop in the Bitter Root Valley is generally of good quality, but prices being received were far below normal and many growers were badly discouraged. The prevailing price for wrapped apples in boxes was around 75¢, which certainly does not leave the grower very much profit. Face-and-fill stock in boxes was selling for 50¢ to 60¢. This price was for the combination Extra Fancy and Fancy grades."

4c. TWO MONTHS' WORK IN WASHINGTON

F. E. Bailey included the following reports of shipping-point work in the State of Washington in his "Inspection Letter," dated October 6 at Yakima:-

Washington Shipping-Point Inspections for July and August, 1931:

	July	Aug.		July	Aug.
Apples	9	149	Onions	232	161½
Apricots	23	-	Peaches	-	29
Blackberries	-	69	Pears	14	509½
Cabbage	-	2	Peas	149	8
Cantaloupes	1	-	Plums	2	172½
Carrots	1	-	Potatoes	89½	155
Cauliflower	28	8	Raspberries	438	7
Celery	2	6	Tomatoes	38	96
Cherries	1	-	Turnips	-	2
Lettuce	346	19	Crabapples	-	3
Mixed fruits	4	19			
Mixed vegetables	46	6	TOTALS	1423½	1422½
Mixed frt. and vegs.	-	1			

-- INSPECTORS IN CHARGE should read the note at bottom of page 597 of this D.L.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

States	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg. P.O.Box 1347 San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	Nov. 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
INDIANA AND MICHIGAN:	J. E. Dickerson, Court House, Warsaw, Ind.	Onions	Aug. 15	Nov. 15
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 7
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, University, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine.	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Apr. 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Box 1256, Winter Haven, Fla.	Citrus	Sept. 15	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas.	Citrus	Sept. 20	Mar. 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, Brocton, N. Y.	Grapes	Sept. 28	Oct. 24

REPORTS on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R.C.Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N.D. Reports on products from other States can be obtained, as usual, from the supervisors in those States.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING SEPT., 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total Fees
Atlanta	42	84	3	1	$ 178.95
Baltimore	33	22	0	0	130.50
Boston	100	188	200	5	391.31
Buffalo	5	12	0	0	21.91
Chicago	113	151	4	0	501.59
Cincinnati	63	73	0	2	276.30
Cleveland	51	30	0	0	299.11
Columbus	18	35	0	0	82.38
Dallas	6	-	1	0	24.00
Denver	31	25	0	0	127.00
Des Moines	7	-	0	0	26.50
Detroit	68	86	0	0	264.50
Ft. Worth	18	27	1	0	72.00
Harrisburg	3	4	0	0	13.00
Houston	34	36	0	0	124.50
Indianapolis	18	30	0	0	99.43
Jacksonville	6	18	0	0	22.50
Kansas City	23	55	3	1	112.87
*Los Angeles	19	3	0	0	32.50
Louisville	6	-	0	0	44.94
Memphis	31	27	24	0	128.50
Milwaukee	79	83	2	0	316.65
Minneapolis	18	18	0	0	121.70
# Newark	53	67	1	0	194.04
New Orleans	121	191	30	0	280.00
New York	742	1,052	41	0	3,869.06
Norfolk	3	15	1	0	19.12
Omaha	12	25	1	0	46.50
Philadelphia	131	203	3	0	438.67
Pittsburgh	138	214	28	6	567.26
Portland	3	8	0	0	36.00
Providence	10	9	0	0	45.00
Rochester	7	5	0	0	34.77
Sacramento	1	-	0	0	4.00
St. Louis	66	107	1	0	256.50
Salt Lake City	7	1	0	0	28.00
San Diego	0	1	0	0	00
San Francisco	6	3	0	0	181.30
San Juan, P.R.	7	-	0	4	26.50
Scranton	12	-	0	0	45.00
Seattle	0	0	0	0	28.00
Springfield	41	18	4	0	209.37
Toledo	0	10	0	0	00
Trenton	2	3	0	0	10.50
Tulsa	9	-	0	0	82.77
Washington	25	47	3	1	181.83
Wilkes-Barre	10	13	1	0	42.00
TOTAL	2263	3028	367	20	$10,386.59

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:-Total 1,435: 822 Nickel Plate, 40 B.& O., 16 Erie, 347 Pennsylvania, 62 Kroger Grocery & Baking Company.

* Compiled from certificates in file.

# New Haven	65	28	15	0	$346.76

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING September, 1931

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

Symbols:- N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED		Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED		TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-weight	
STATIONS	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
Great Lakes	121527	0	2450	0	123977	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	649429	0	31233	0	680662	0	144	0	0	0
New York	186742	55814	24483	250	211225	56064	343	0	0	0
Norfolk	4040	0	0	0	4040	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	179170	21841	2543	0	181713	21841	969	198	0	0
San Diego	652763	50695	6738	0	659501	50695	2338	97	0	0
San Francisco	224633	48500	5050	2000	229683	50500	0	0	0	0
San Pedro	858057	0	13717	0	871774	0	80	0	0	0
Vallejo	253310	30247	11107	4276	264417	34523	395	20	0	0
Washington	6703	0	338	0	7041	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3136374	207097	97659	6526	3234033	213623	4269	315	0	0
INSPECTIONS FOR U.S. SHIPPING BOARD										
New York	5727		15		5742		0		0	
INSPECTIONS FOR U.S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL										
Great Lakes	54060		1380		55440		0		0	
Chicago	129758		40400		170158		0		0	
Milwaukee	21948		921		22869		0		0	
New York	153280		8447		161727		0		0	
Philadelphia	63061		7885		70946		0		0	
St. Louis	34791		0		34791		0		0	
TOTALS	456898		59033		515931		0		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	105111	236044	13761
Munson S. S. Line	5107	13562	570
Dollar Line	8232	112119	25
American France Line	5206	25186	729
American Diamond Line	6518	27421	5721
Columbian S. S. Line	1533	5229	140
	131707	419561	20946

The San Pedro office also inspected the following for the Navy: 2,725 lbs. bread and 8,694 lbs. butter. The Vallejo office also inspected 28,670 lbs. bread and 130 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

5c. ANOTHER MECHANICAL REFRIGERATOR CAR

Recently a new type of car of the S.R.I.X. Line was spotted at Yakima for the inspection of shippers. Instead of the Silica Gel equipment, this car carried a small Diesel engine and compressor, similar to that in a stationary refrigerating plant. An electric generator furnishes current for the electric heating element on the floor of the car when heat is necessary. As with the Silica Gel type cars, the temperature control is automatic. Kerosene fuel is used in the Diesel engine. -(Washington "Inspection Letter," 10/6

6c. AN ACTIVE MONTH IN CALIFORNIA

During the month of September, California inspectors made 6,962 inspections at shipping points, including 325 shipside in San Francisco. The leading districts were as follows:- Lodi 1,503, Fresno 665, Watsonville 569, Ontario 547, Dinuba 521, San Jose 478, Modesto 415, Sacramento 275, Turlock 269, Napa 257, Santa Rosa 206, Salinas 205. Including the shipside work, San Francisco made a total of 387 inspections.

7c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Harris & Brown	Pittsburg , Texas	$8.00
G. A. Carey, Inc.	Moultrie, Ga.	$4.00
Mackay & Lehman,	Weslaco, Tex. (add $4.00, making total of	$16.00)
Ruehman, H. H.	Wamego, Kans. (check returned)	$4.00

The following should be taken from the List of Past-Due Accounts:

N. P. Shapiro	534 Water St., Bridgeport, Conn.	$1.00
The Hatch-Stevens Co.,	Boston, Mass.	$21.00
Robert W. A. Wood,	21 Newton Road, Ithan, Pa.	$4.65

8c. ENCLOSURES FOR INSPECTORS

With this D.L., each inspector should receive copies of the following:

"APPLES - New York State Apple Grades - Rules and Regulations," Circular No. 434 of the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets.

"Grades for New York Seed Potatoes," by the New York Cooperative Seed Potato Association, Inc. We received only a limited number of copies of this circular, and they have been sent to eastern markets. Any other inspectors desiring copies can obtain them from Mr. Hackleman, of our New York City office

- R. C. BUTNER, Supervisor of Inspection.

1e. BERGER PRODUCE COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY, FINED UNDER PRODUCE AGENCY ACT

The Berger Produce Company, New York City, pleaded guilty on Sept. 30 to violation of the Produce Agency Act, whereupon Judge Harry B. Anderson imposed a fine of $25. This case involved consignments of two cars of pears in July, 1930, from Citronelle, Alabama. Investigation showed that the net proceeds were understated in connection with each car, thereby defrauding the shipper in the amount of $72.41. After the case was filed in court, the defendant paid this additional amount to the shipper. This payment may account for the small amount of the fine.

- F. G. ROBB, In Charge, Regulatory Branch.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman is spending the last three days of this week on a motor trip through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Wm. E. Lewis, of the Standardization Project, was on annual leave all of last week at his home in Takoma Park, Md.

H. V. DeMott, who is a member of the staff of the Domestic Wool Section in Washington, has completed his four months' furlough and returned to duty this morning. He has spent most of the time in New Jersey.

The Standard Container Project in Washington received a visit this week from Mr. Lockwood, president of the American Veneer Package Association, whose office is in Suffolk, Va.

J. G. Cross, of the Transportation Unit, plans to leave Washington about next Tuesday for a month's field trip in the interest of railroad reports on fruits and vegetables. He expects to confer with transportation officials and with members of the Fruit and Vegetable staff at various points in Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and in the Middle West.

F. S. Zimmerman has completed his supervision of shipping-point inspection work on Delaware apples and is now back at his headquarters in the New York City office.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Tate, of Minneapolis on the arrival of a son, Norman Carroll, in their home on October 8.

H. E. Rutland stopped at the Washington office last Saturday, en route from northern Maine to Williston, Florida, where he will be located until further notice. Mr. Rutland is a member of the field force of the Market News Service but has been on furlough since last December because of ill health. We are glad to report his condition greatly improved.

H. F. Willson arrived at Winter Haven, Florida, this week and will begin the market reports on citrus fruits by next Monday.

S. W. Russell, of the New York City market-news office, underwent a tonsilar operation this week at one of the local hospitals.

Loyde M. Billman, of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Project, left Washington on Wednesday evening for western New York, where he is grading several carloads of peas, snap beans and other vegetables at canneries, for delivery to the Veterans' Administration. He will return to Washington by the early part of next week.

E. P. Bostwick, of the same Project, has gone from his headquarters in Chicago to Belleville, Ill., where he is grading several cars of canned tomatoes, for acceptance or rejection in behalf of the Veterans' Administration.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 42 October 23, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. DO NOT USE OFFICIAL CARS FOR PERSONAL BUSINESS

In the last issue of the Division Letter, instructions were issued regarding the use of personally-owned automobiles for official business.

Attention is now called to the question of the use of Government-owned automobiles for personal business. It has been reported that a representative of the Secretary's office and a representative of the office of the Director of the Budget recently, while on a field trip, observed an official car being used by a personal party in the evening.

Every employee in this Division, who has occasion to use a Government-owned automobile, is hereby warned that under no circumstances is it to be used for personal business. The Department requires that all official automobiles operated by our employees be properly marked to indicate that they are owned by the Federal Government. Decalcomania sheets, carrying the official insignia for these cars, should be obtained from Mrs. E. Mills, with instructions for their use. No official car should be driven without this insignia. Each operator of an official car will please report to me immediately whether it is properly and conspicuously marked, as the property of this Bureau. This means that the insignia must not be badly-faded or weather-worn.

Strict compliance with the requirements of the Department as to the use of official cars will be expected from everyone. There has been some difficulty in securing sufficient automobiles for the proper conduct of the work in the Fruit and Vegetable Division, and any misuse of official cars will be embarrassing not only to the Bureau but as well to the employee who fails to observe these instructions.

WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. GOOD CROP OF CAULIFLOWER IN OREGON

The following report came from R. L. Ringer, at Portland, in a wire dated October 19:-

"Oregon's main crop of cauliflower is starting to move and promises to be of the same excellent quality as last year. Movement to date has been from the early crop, which was lost last year on account of the dry summer. It has been cutting about 70% No. 1, while the main crop frequently goes 90%. Sizes are large, running heavily to 9's and 10's. Acreage is slightly greater than last year and, coupled with the shipments to date from the early crop, will probably give a considerably larger total movement from Oregon this season."

- IS YOUR D.L. PROPERLY ADDRESSED EACH WEEK? IF NOT, INFORM THE EDITOR. -

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. INTERESTING NOTES ON TEXAS GRAPEFRUIT

W. D. Googe sent the following report from Brownsville, Texas, in a letter of October 17:-

"To date, the lower Rio Grande Valley has shipped about 600 cars of grapefruit, or almost double the number shipped to the same time last year. Practically all the fruit so far has been of the Duncan variety, and shipments will now be rather light until about the middle of next month, when the Marsh Seedless crop will begin to move. September is normally a month of considerable rainfall in this section, but this year both August and September were dry and hot. Growers failed to irrigate their groves, thinking the seasonal rains would begin sooner or later, and the result is a large percentage of small-sized fruit. The Duncan crop is hard to sell after the Seedless becomes available, for which reason growers are reluctant to water this late and thus hold the fruit back to be shipped in competition with the Seedless variety. The small sizes (mostly 96's to 126's) are in poor demand in the terminal markets, whereas 46's and 54's are bringing rather fancy prices. Many shippers have stopped packing the small sizes, since prices realized will not cover charges for packing and transportation. Growers are disposing of this stock to peddlers and motor-truck operators, as best they can.

"The hot, dry weather has been very injurious to the fall crop of beans, potatoes and tomatoes. It is estimated that the yield of these crops has been reduced by 50% to 75%. The winter crops of cabbage, beets, carrots, etc., are not far enough along to be hurt materially. There was a decided drop in temperature last night, and it is hoped that the heat and drought have been broken."

2b. COLORADO CROPS NEARLY ALL HARVESTED

The following notes were taken from a letter of October 17, written by Bryce Morris at Denver:-

"Good weather the past week has been ideal for harvesting in Colorado, and another week of such weather should find all perishable crops harvested, with no loss due to rains or freezing. Practically all of the potatoes are now in storage, except in the Carbondale section on the Western Slope and a few in northern Colorado. Late this week, prices were slightly stronger to growers in the San Luis Valley.

"Colorado's cauliflower harvest was rapidly drawing to a close, with the total movement now approximately the same as the final last year. Prices dropped sharply during the week, with late sales at the lowest price of the season, around 55¢-60¢ per pony crate.

"Onion movement from the State as a whole has been moderate this week, but the outstanding feature has been a comparatively heavy movement of Yellow Danvers from the Western Slope, which has shipped more than three-fourths of the daily Colorado total. Shipments of the Valencia type from the Arkansas Valley have been very light. Growers have been receiving four to five times the prices paid last season at this time, especially on Yellow Danvers."

3b. CODE ADDITIONS, EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Add the following to the "PA-PE" (White Potato) page:

IQ - Minnesota Commercials

Following is the description of this grade:-

"THE MINNESOTA COMMERCIAL GRADE shall conform in all respects to the U.S. No. 1 grade but, in order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, a tolerance of defect of 4%, in weight, additional on Number 1 grade may be allowed for this grade, but not to exceed 1% shall be allowed for potatoes affected by soft rot."

4b. A LIGHT CROP OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TOMATOES

W. L. Jackson, of the Los Angeles office, reported as follows in a letter dated October 13:-

"From present indications, the southern California tomato crop this year will be extremely light. The cropsin San Diego and Orange counties, with plantings of some 2,000 acres each, are showing especially poor yields. One shipper in San Diego County stated that he did not believe he would get more than 40 or 50 carloads of tomatoes from his 600-acre plantings. The counties of Ventura, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, with some 5,800 acres, are also returning very light yields.

"Hot weather during July and August is held responsible for the poor crop. Early blossoms dropped and made for a very light set. Later sets are doing somewhat better but will also be very light. Reports indicate that the vines look thrifty in practically all of the producing areas, but in spite of this the tomatoes are not to be had in the usual volume.

"Quality is only fair, with heavy culling necessary in practically all areas. Most present loadings are running heavily to small sizes, and our f.o.b. quotations are based on sizes 6x7 or larger. Some shippers are also packing 7x7's, although this small stock is hard to move.

"Peak shipments from northern and central California are apparently over and, with homegrown supplies in eastern markets cleaning up, southern California shippers anticipate an increasing demand."

5b. WISCONSIN POTATO HARVEST DELAYED

A. M. McDowell sent the following report from Waupaca on October 18:-

"The wet weather of a week ago continued over into the early part of the past week and greatly retarded digging of potatoes. With fair weather since Thursday, digging has progressed more rapidly and it is expected that, by the end of the coming week (Oct. 24), most of the potatoes will be out of the ground. Only light frosts have occurred in most places but, in one or two of the more northern districts, it was reported that the temperature had dropped so low that there was a possibility of some slight damage to the crop remaining in the ground.

"A slight strengthening of f.o.b. prices was noted during the early part of the past week, but following the heavier shipments the market eased off again."

ONION PRODUCTION in the late shipping States is reduced to 11,920,000 bushels, or 41% less than last year, according to October crop reports.

6b. MAINE POTATO MARKET SLIGHTLY STRONGER

The following information came in a letter of October 17 from V. H. Nicholson, of the Presque Isle office:-

"For a time it was thought that a part of the Maine potato crop would be left in the ground this season, but probably as much as 95% has already been harvested. Practically all storage space is filled, and considerable stock is stored in farm buildings. A large part of the stock that remains on the farm must be moved before cold weather.

"Rains the latter part of this week prevented growers from hauling, and, as no one was willing to take potatoes out of storage under the present market conditions, it has been rather difficult to obtain supplies the past two days. The market advanced to 40¢-45¢ sacked per cwt. yesterday, but this may be a temporary condition because of the rain. The street price has remained mostly 30¢-40¢ bulk per barrel measure of U.S. No. 1 Green Mountains,

"A meeting of growers and others interested in the potato situation is scheduled at Caribou today (Saturday). The purpose of the meeting is to devise means of obtaining better prices for potatoes. A similar meeting was held several days ago, and at that time a committee was appointed to study the situation. The committee is to report today, and some definite action is expected to be taken."

7b. IDAHO POTATO HARVEST PROGRESSING RAPIDLY

R. G. Risser submitted the following report from Idaho Falls under date of October 15:-

"From the standpoint of weather, Idaho has been having ideal conditions during the potato digging season. There has been a fortunate absence of rain. Under the circumstances, harvesting operations have been proceeding almost continuously and the potatoes have been coming out of the ground clean and free from dirt. There have been no severe freezes to date, to injure the potatoes or affect their keeping quality.

"It is generally believed that there are many more U.S. No. 2's and culls than No. 1's. Some fields have produced no U.S. No. 1's whatever, but others have a fair quantity of that grade. Many of the largest potatoes are the most defective in smoothness and shape, and for this reason many of the U.S. No. 2's are running larger than the 1's.

8b. TWO MORE SUMMARIES ISSUED

During the past week, the following additional summaries of field deals were distributed:-

"Marketing Michigan Potatoes, 1930-31 Season," by R. E. Keller.
"Marketing Western New York Potatoes, 1930-31 Season," by R. L. Sutton and A. L. Thomas.

POTATOES improved in eastern and central States last month, so that the October crop report was 4% greater than that for September. A total crop of about 375,000,000 bushels is now forecast, compared with 343,000,000 last year and a five-year average of about 381,000,000 bushels. Conditions in the West remained almost unchaged during the month, with production much below that of last season.

9b. UNSETTLED APPLE MARKETS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The following paragraphs were written by T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, in a review dated October 15:-

"Apple shipments have fallen below those of last season, although the total United States production is larger. Aside from the limiting effects of low prices in home and foreign markets, the grading quality of the crop in some sections has been inpaired so much by insects and weather-damage that the quantity of saleable fruit is below expectations.

"Extremely unsettled conditions in many of the export markets for northwestern boxed apples and a free movement from many middlewestern and northeastern producing districts into nearby markets, are two bothersome factors for Pacific Coast apple shippers. The quality of the domestic crop, especially in the Middle West, is good this season, and fall varieties are competing directly with the northwestern boxed apples in the larger city markets. The demand for Jonathans and Delicious is slow. Growers in some districts are moving the Jonathans into cold storage, with the intention of holding until December, by which time it is thought the markets will absorb this variety. Small sizes for export are scarce and the larger sizes in some of the earlier districts are already too ripe.

"Very low prices rule the Yakima Valley potato market, and trading is draggy. Track holdings in both Seattle and Portland are heavy, and the movement into California and eastern markets is light. Digging is general throughout the Valley. Livestock is being fed potatoes by some growers, in an effort to dispose of the crop.

"Vegetable shipments from western Washington are largely restricted to mixed carlots containing cauliflower, celery, cabbage and bunched vegetables. The Puget Sound cauliflower has been favored by a cool, rainy September, and quality this season is good. Sales are being made within a range 65¢-80¢ per pony crate, f.o.b. cash track. Celery is also of good to excellent quality, with the 2-dozen size crate quoted around $2.25. The Walla Walla district is forwarding several cars of spinach each week, while Pasco and Euphrata lettuce is now being harvested."

10b. NORTHWESTERN APPLE CROP REDUCED

The October crop report, released last week, showed an increase during September of 375,000 boxes in the commercial apple crop of Washington, but a compensating reduction was reported for Oregon. In view of these reports, the following excerpt is of interest. It has been taken from the Northwestern Weekly Market Review, published by our Portland office on October 12:-

"The northwestern apple harvest is progressing rapidly, with the picking season soon to draw to a close. Shipments to date are behind those of last year, but ahead in so far as the percentage of the crop already moved is concerned. Last week's survey of the expected yield resulted in still lower estimates for both Oregon and Washington sections. Oregon's crop may not aggregate 1,000 cars. From Wenatchee come authentic reports that the carlot movement from that section may not be more than 16,000 cars, compared with the previous estimate of 19,000 and a July figure of more than 22,000 cars. Jonathans, Delicious, and Spitzenburgs are falling far below earlier expectations. More than the usual amount of fruit will be left on the trees this year, on account of the very low prices offered to growers. Yakima's crop has been

estimated as low as 10,000 cars, compared with earlier figures of 14,000 to 15,000. Very little buying is now being done for future shipment. Most of the stock moving is going into immediate consumption rather than into city storages."

11b. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN NEW YORK

R. L. Sutton's report, dated October 21 at Rochester, includes the following condensed statement:-

"Summarized briefly, the past seven-day period in the marketing of western and central New York fruits and vegetables has developed as follows: Apples - Still inactive, most stock going into storage. Export movement practically at a standstill. Pears - Not much fruit being offered, and demand slow. Generally too few sales being reported to quote. Grapes - Peak of season over. Warm weather slowing down demand in Finger Lakes region. This section more nearly completed in harvesting. Prices averaging higher from Finger Lakes district. Operations of juice plants reduced in Chautauqua-Erie section. Cabbage - Movement heavy. Market closing slightly weaker. Distribution widespread. The domestic crop has mostly been moved. Celery - Heavy volumes moving into storage. Market steady for good stock but wide range in quality. Expect most of late crop to be cut within few days. Cold-storage holdings in western New York through October 16 amounted to 334,394 crates, compared with 335,621 at the same time last season. The quantity on hand at the time of this report is greater than most predictions. Onions - Shipments restricted. Prices nominally unchanged. Potatoes - Demand improving and market closing slightly higher. Haulings rather light. It has been an item of interest to notice a few cars of seed stock going into New Brunswick. Carrots - Holding mostly steady; occasional stronger tendency."

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
ROCHESTER, N.Y. ** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears	Sept. 2	Nov. 7
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar.26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches*	Sept. 10	Oct. 3*
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct.31
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V.H.Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A.M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	R.M. Peterson	Apples	Sept. 15	Nov. 14
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS ** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar. 1
			Vegetables	Jan. 1	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P. O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples	Oct. 30	Nov. 7
			Onions	Oct. 30	Apr. 2
			Potatoes	Oct. 30	May 14
The following station will close on date indicated:					
BENTON HARBOR, MICH.** 205 P. O. Bldg.	838	R. E. Keller	Apples	Aug. 20	Oct. 28
			Pears	Aug. 28	Oct. 7
			Peaches	Sept. 8	Sept. 19
			Grapes	Sept. 21	Oct. 28
			Onions	Oct. 5	Oct. 28
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	Oct. 28

** State cooperating * Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
J. B. Owens in Chicago
H. E. Rutland at Williston, Fla.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. PLEASE FOLD CERTIFICATES TOGETHER, NOT INDIVIDUALLY

Inspection certificates, - particularly those from shipping points, - are arriving in the Washington office in large quantities, and a lot of work is involved simply in unfolding and straightening out these certificates.

All clerks, inspectors or supervisors who mail copies to Washington are again asked to cooperate by folding the certificates together in large bunches, rather than fold each one separately. A great deal of time and labor will be saved in the Washington office, if you will please remember this simple but very important point.

The daily average in Washington is more than 1,000 copies, and it would necessitate employing an additional clerk to open up these certificate copies, when folded individually.

2c. UNUSUAL CONDITIONS IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

G. Ray Warren, Supervising Inspector, wrote as follows in a letter of October 14 from Caribou, Maine:-

"I thought you might be interested in knowing something about conditions in Aroostook County this season:

"Farmers have been rather slow about digging, for several reasons. When they started to dig Mountains, there was a week of rainy weather. Then they were discouraged over the low prices and had no money to finance digging operations. They have been forced to cut digging-crews and depend more on their families to help. This has slowed up things. However, harvesting will be about 95% completed by the end of this week. There are rumors that some farmers will not dig their entire crop, but I doubt that. If the weather remains good, I believe practically all potatoes will be harvested.

"Shipments have been light this season, as compared with other seasons. To date about 5,500 cars have been moved, compared with 9,000 cars in 1930 and about 12,000 in 1929. The increased acreage plus the light shipments have put winter storage at a premium. Potatoes are now stored in barns, cellars of dwelling-houses, hen-houses and store basements. Most farmers were forced to sell at the prevailing low prices (30¢-40¢ per barrel) because they had no storage or to get money to pay the pickers. Before freezing weather sets in,- which will be in a couple of weeks, - potatoes must be removed from the unprotected places and be shipped. After that, most people believe shipments will be extremely light until prices go up to about $1 per barrel; then banks and fertilizer companies will force many to sell. Potatoes at present prices are not worth what it costs to dig, haul, store and insure them. I imagine there will be very little activity until about the middle of January.

"We have had from 12 to 14 inspectors working, but will cut the number down to 10 this coming Saturday night. By the end of last week we had inspected only about 440 cars, as against three times that many last year."

STRAWBERRY ACREAGE for picking in 1932 may be about 22% larger than that harvested this year; most increase is expected in second-early and intermediate States next season.

3c. $2,000,000 CARGO OF DATES FROM PERSIAN GULF IN 27 DAYS

The New York Times for October 18 published the following interesting item, which was forwarded by W. W. Anderson, of the Montreal office:-

Kohistan, - Date Ship,- Arrives, Winning Race
Brings $2,000,000 Cargo from the Persian Gulf in 27 Days,
Equaling Record for the Trip.

"Far ahead of her nearest competitor, the date ship, Kohistan, reached New York Harbor late yesterday with the season's first shipment of dates from the Persian Gulf, equaling the record time set last year by her sister ship, the Gorjistan, which docked in twenty-seven days out of Busrey. This year the annual race, which is watched with interest by fruit merchants because the first arrival sets the market price, had nothing of the aspects of a competition, for the Gorjistan will not reach port for another ten days, having started late.

"As soon as the Kohistan docked at Pier 1, Bush Terminal, last night, waiting stevedores and workmen began unloading and checking off the cargo, and worked all night to get the dates off for transshipment. Meanwhile, Captain J. Baum, master of the liner, received the silver loving cup donated each year by the cargo consignees, the Hills Brothers Company of 110 Washington Street. This trophy will be kept by the winning crew until next year, when it again goes to the winner. It must be won thrice for permanent possession.

"Officials of the company said the Kohistan had brought in a $2,000,000 cargo, or approximately 8,000 tons of Hallowi and Sayer dates grown on the site of the Garden of Eden. Packed in 70-pound boxes, the fruit was loaded into waiting train cars and within forty-eight hours of arrival, the company estimated, 100 carloads would be on their way westward, the remainder to be kept here for the New York market."

4c. CHANGES ON LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

McDavitt Brothers	Brownsville, Texas	$1.00
Carey, G. A.	Plant City, Florida	$4.00

(Change previous charge of $4.00 to Carey from Moultrie, Ga., to Plant City, Fla.)

(This makes a total of $8.00 against G. A. Carey)

The following should be taken from List of Past-Due Accounts:

Gravis, Frank J.	Alice, Texas	$4.00
Mackay & Lehman,	Weslaco, Texas	$8.00

($8.00 still due from Mackay & Lehman)

5c. BULLETIN ON TOMATO LATE-BLIGHT ROT

Enclosed with this D. L., each inspector will receive a copy of U.S.D.A. Circular No. 169, on "Tomato Late-Blight Rot, a Serious Transit and Market Disease." Authors are Dr. G. B. Ramsey and Mrs. Alice Allen Bailey, of B.P.I.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS UNDER THE P.A.C. ACT

Below is a schedule of hearings, to be held under the P.A.C. Act:-

Date	Place	Names of Parties
October 22	New York City	M. H. Watson Sales Agency vs. Wm. Shapiro, Inc.
" 23	Newark, N. J.	R. S. Norman vs. Paul Rothman, Inc.
" 24	New York City	Demase & Morgan Co. vs. Jill Bros., Inc.
" 26	New Haven, Conn.	Shouldice & Surabian vs. Conn. Frt.& Produce Co.
" 27	Worcester, Mass.	P. P. Roy vs. Standard Fruit Co.
" 28	Bangor, Maine	United Fruit Stores vs. W. H. Martin
" 30	Buffalo, N. Y.	Baldwin-Pope Co.v.Anthony Leon & Frank Leon, trading as Leon Bros.
" 31	Buffalo, N. Y.	Magee & Nixon, Inc. vs. Joseph Rothenberg.
November 2	Cleveland, Ohio	Musselman vs. City Produce & C. Co.
" 3	"	Atlantic Coast Produce Co. vs. Bloom, Rosenblum-Klein Co.
" 4	"	Georgia State Bureau of Markets vs. K.B.Pocock
" 5	Mansfield, Ohio	Baker Produce Co. vs. Central Fruit & Grocery Co
" 6	Youngstown, Ohio	K. W. King Company vs. Mathew Mercurio & Company.

F. G. ROBB, in Charge

OFFICE NOTES:

B. C. Boree expects to spend the coming week at the market-news offices in the Pacific Northwest and probably will reach California about November 1.

R. L. Spangler returned to the Washington office a few days ago, after having spent 10 weeks in the West, particularly in California, in the interest of standardization work. He is on annual leave this week.

Paul M. Williams, in charge of the grading work on canned fruits and vegetables, expects to leave Washington by Sunday and spend about a week in New York City, Philadelphia, Wilmington (Delaware) and other eastern points, discussing grades for canned products with chain-stores, wholesale groceries, warehousemen, and other interested parties. He will also obtain information on the basis of which a decision can be reached as to the best location for a permanent grading office in the eastern States.

Judge R. L. Dillman, of the Solicitor's Office, and Miss Wilda Daish (stenographer) have gone to various points at which public hearings are to be held under the P.A.C. Act. They conducted a hearing in New York City yesterday, are in Newark today, and will hold another hearing in New York on Saturday. They will then proceed to points in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, western New York, and Ohio, as outlined in the schedule of hearings, printed in another part of this D.L. Edward F. Mynatt, also of the Solicitor's Office, will attend the hearings in New York City and Newark, and then will probably return to Washington.

OFFICE NOTES (CONT'D):

R. E. Keller plans to close the Benton Harbor, Mich., field station next Wednesday and will begin market reports at Grand Rapids on Friday.

C. H. Walleigh, of the Regulatory Branch in Washington, plans to spend the next two weeks at various points in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, investigating special cases in connection with the enforcement of the P.A.C. Act.

Among visitors to the Washington office this week was J. P. Klein, a former member of the market-news staff, who is now connected with the Porto Rican Fruit Growers Improvement Committee. He is in the city to attend hearings before the Tariff Commission on products produced in Porto Rico. We regret to learn that Mr. Klein's wife is very seriously ill at Mayo's Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

Sympathy is extended to Miss Frances O. Myers, of the Chicago inspection office, in the death recently of her mother. Interment was at Takoma Park, Md. Miss Myers was formerly a member of the Washington staff and the family home was at Takoma Park, a suburb of this city.

S. W. Russell, of the New York City office, has not yet been able to return to duty since his tonsil operation about 10 days ago, but the improvement in his condition indicates that he may soon again be at his desk.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. H. C. McCoy on the arrival in their home of a 9-pound daughter, Doris Louise, on October 10. Mr. McCoy is a member of the New York City inspection staff.

C. D. Schoolcraft, of the Detroit market-news office, advises that his residence address is changed to 1250 Hubbard Ave.; phone Lafayette 6644. John W. Coleman, of the New Orleans market-news office, has changed his residence address to 5617 West End Blvd., but his phone number is unchanged. Please note these corrections on all copies of the Market Station Address List.

On the list of Temporary Headquarters of Shipping-Point Inspection Work, as published on page 603 of last week's D. L., please extend the period of service for J. A. Marks, at Brocton, N. Y., to about November 10, and change the length of A. S. Mason's assignment in Porto Rico to at least March 1.

THE LEASED WIRE service will be resumed to Jacksonville, Fla., and San Antonio, Texas, on Monday, November 2. The circuit to New Orleans is not expected to be reopened until later in the winter, when the active shipping season for Louisiana and Mississippi products begins. Relays to New Orleans and to the State office at Jackson, Miss., will continue to be handled for the present from the Atlanta office.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 43 October 30, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. BE CAREFUL IN THE USE OF TELEGRAMS

Under date of October 15, the Chief of Bureau sent the following memorandum to all Division Leaders. The message of caution is passed along to all employees in the field, with the request that strict attention be given these instructions:-

"Your attention from time to time has been called to the unnecessary use of telegraph service in the Bureau. A careful review of the telegrams received by and sent out from the Bureau indicates that we can effect a material saving by giving more care to the use of this means of communication.

"There is a great tendency to put on the wire(both the leased and commercial) messages, the information contained in which could just as well be sent by mail. It is also noted that a number of telegrams are sent out by the Bureau by commercial wire in response to telegraphic inquiries, such as requests for information as to whether applicants have passed examinations and similar inquiries which are of a strictly personal character. If the incoming telegram does not specify an answer by wire collect, the answer to such inquiry should be made by mail.

"There is also a tendency toward lengthy telegrams. Please bear in mind, in preparing telegrams, that every word must be paid for in commercial telegrams and that every unnecessary word sent over the leased wire ties up that wire for the length of time required to send such material.

"It is requested that you instruct those employees under your supervision, who have responsibility for the handling of these matters, to see that more care is used in the use of the telegraph and in the preparation of telegrams."

2a. WHAT IS DONE WITH CANNED GOODS AFTER GRADING

The Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Project has been busy on commercial work. A very heavy volume of grading has also been done for Government departments, such as the Veterans' Administration, the Prison Bureau of the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior, and the General Supply Committee which serves local institutions - St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Gallinger Hospital, and penal institutions.

A rather preplexing problem arose in connection with the disposition of cut samples of merchandise, after they have been graded. At the present time, many gallons are being supplied, after grading, to charitable institutions, such as the Central Union Mission and Gospel Mission in Washington, the Salvation Army in Chicago and in Louisville, and the Home for the Aged and Infirm near Easton, Maryland.

Additional grading offices are planned. Microanalytical work will also probably be undertaken on some canned products after January 1.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. LOW RETURNS FOR APPLES IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

The following comments on northwestern apples appeared in a review of October 19, published by the Portland office:-

"Probably close to one-half of north-central Washington's apple crop has already moved to market. The entire output from the State of Washington this season may not aggregate 30,000 cars, compared with 45,000 last season. Although prices of Washington apples are very low, they are bringing in some instances two to three times as much in terminal markets as those from other sections of the country. Packing, harvesting and transportation costs are leaving very low returns to growers. Most of the apples from Wenatchee are moving east and into active consumption. Yakima stock is going generally into storage. Cold and common storage in Yakima is reported adequate to take care of the entire crop, if necessary. Most of Wenatchee's rollers are moving unsold, and this factor is having a rather depressing effect on eastern markets. Poor export inquiry and trade has added to difficulties of marketing the part of the crop that must move into immediate consumption."

2b. BRIEF MARKET NOTES FROM THE NORTHWEST

T. R. Hall included the following remarks in a review dated October 22 at Seattle:-

"Northwestern boxed apples are meeting a very slow demand from domestic markets. Some inquiry is reported for small-sized Jonathans, but dealers who have stocks in storage are reluctant about segregating sizes and are hoping to sell all various sizes later. The f.o.b. cash market at Yakima Valley shipping points for Extra Fancy Jonathans, 163's and larger, is generally $1-$1.10, with Fancy at 80¢-90¢. Delicious are meeting a slow demand; prices for Extra Fancy generally range $1.40-$1.45 and Fancy $1.10-$1.15.

"The Yakima Valley potato market is weak and more or less demoralized. Some shipments are rolling on consignment. Onions are generally steady to firm at Yakima Valley shipping points, and a fairly good demand prevails in Coast markets. Trade estimates place probable storage-holdings yet in the Yakima Valley around 350 cars. Rutabagas are meeting a fairly satisfactory demand in Coast markets, and squash supplies are plentiful."

3b. OREGON CAULIFLOWER MOVEMENT ACTIVE

B. E. Surry, who is located in the Portland office, sent the following report under date of October 23:-

"The Oregon cauliflower season is becoming more active, with approximately 170 cars loaded to date, compared with about 25 last year. Quality is rapidly improving, due to rain this week, which came at the time when needed most for development of the late crop. F.o.b. prices have dropped to a low level, on account of liberal track-holdings in the East and the quality offered. Most cars loaded at Portland have been sold for cash, with very few rollers or usual-terms sales. Cash sales have ranged 60¢-75¢ per crate during the past week. Demand has been generally quite active, and shippers have found little difficulty in selling their output from day to day."

4b. TEXAS GRAPEFRUIT MOSTLY OF SMALL SIZE

Additional information regarding Texas grapefruit and snap beans is contained in the following letter of October 25 from W. D. Googe, at Brownsville:-

"Grapefruit shipments from the lower Rio Grande Valley so far are lower than anticipated, due mostly to small sizes and consequent poor prices. The Duncan crop is pretty well cleaned up, and the Marsh Seedless will not move in appreciable volume before the middle of November. Some few cars of the latter have already been shipped, but sizes are small and sugar and juice content have been nothing extra. Shippers are quoting this variety for prompt shipment on the basis of $2.50 per box for 80's and larger, and 25¢ lower for smaller sizes, f.o.b. usual terms.

"The weather continues hot, and so far the long-awaited rains have not fallen. During the last 10 days, growers have been watering their citrus groves in an effort to increase sizes and weight of the fruit, and this will delay maturity. Unless the fruit is improved by this delayed irrigation, it is estimated that a large portion of this season's shipments of Marsh Seedless grapefruit will be smaller than 80's, with a majority ranging 126's to 150's. There is considerable argument about whether or not watering at this time will have much effect on the size of the fruit.

"A rather active movement of l.c.l. quantities of snap beans developed during the last three days of this week, practically all of which went to Texas cities. Growers were paid mostly $1.75 per bushel hamper. The fall crop, however, will be exceedingly light, on account of the dry, hot weather. All fall and winter vegetables are making poor progress, as a result of the weather conditions."

5b. WISCONSIN POTATO MARKET REMAINS UNCHANGED

A. M. McDowell wrote as follows from Waupaca in a letter of October 25:-

"Digging of Wisconsin potatoes is now almost completed. Friday's rain interfered with the harvesting of the last of the crop, but with two or three days of good weather the remainder should all be out of the ground. Yields are generally below normal but are considerably higher than most growers expected to realize six or eight weeks ago.

"Deliveries to warehouses have been rather light the last few days. The very mild weather prevailing has been favorable to farm storing in pits and on barn floors. Dealers believe that, when cold weather comes, there will be a temporary increase in haulings, as farmers move their stock in from the less-protected places.

"Despite better demand and higher prices in many of the producing districts during the past week, there was no improvement in the Wisconsin potato situation. Demand was slow and the market generally dull, with prices almost unchanged. With heavier shipments from Michigan, the Wisconsin potatoes are being largely shut out of markets in Ohio and eastern Indiana and are having to find an outlet in the smaller towns in Illinois and Iowa. A slightly increasing percentage of the shipments is being sent to southern markets."

TESTS OF A LONG LIST of vegetables and fruits preserved by the quick-freezing process have been made by the State Experiment Station at Geneva, New York, cooperating with a commercial organization. "Much remains to be done experimentally before the process can be put to general use," according to station specialist, "but it is believed to be quite promising."

6b. A GOOD REPORT ON WESTERN NEW YORK CROPS

The following paragraphs have been taken from a report of October 26 by R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office:-

"Marketing activity in the shipping sections of western and central New York last week showed no conspicuous variation over previous performance. Cabbage moved in heavy volume, and the into-storage movement of celery was rapid. Holdings through last week will be near the maximum amount for the season. Apples moved slowly and were generally dull. Pears assumed very little importance from standpoints of volume of movement or trading activity. Grapes moved in heavy volumes at lower prices. Juice plants were less active, especially after midweek.

"The height of the grape shipments was reached last week,-just a week later than was anticipated when our last report was written. On account of the juice plants taking a lesser amount, heavier volumes were loaded in cars for movement to market. Prices showed decided declines, with some sales reported in the Chautauqua-Erie section as low as $20 per ton for carloads, including baskets. In the Finger Lakes district, dealers have been reluctant to sell under $30, there being cases where carloads have been unloaded for truckers, in order to maintain reasonable price levels. The juice plants in the Chautauqua-Erie section have sharply curtailed their operations, it being reported that most of the plants are practically through receiving grapes. Catawbas are just getting under way in the Finger Lakes section and a nice crop of this variety is reported to be on the vines.

"The apple market continues mostly dull. Sales have been scattered. There is a tendency for more of the shipments to be consigned or handled in other methods than by f.o.b. selling. The placing of apples in storage continues to occupy attention of most of the growers. Practically none of the shipments of last week indicated the fruit to be destined for foreign markets.

"The improvement in the potato market served as a well-needed note of encouragement to the potato growers and shippers, but the stimulation seemed to be rather hard to maintain toward the latter part of the week."

7b. LONG ISLAND CAULIFLOWER SEASON HASTENING TO A CLOSE

E. R. Biddle, of the New York City office, sent the following information in a letter of October 28:-

"The Long Island cauliflower season is now probably at its height, 6,000 crates being sold at auction yesterday at prices ranging 90¢-$1.25. The open weather of the past week has hastened maturity of the 'flower,' and it looks as though the season will come to a close sooner than expected. Unless a cold wave should suddenly make its appearance, only small quantities will be shipped after the coming week."

7½b. STORAGE HOLDINGS OF NEW YORK CELERY

A report released by the Rochester office on Monday showed a total of 474,380 crates of celery in western New York cold-storage houses through Friday, October 23. This is an increase of 140,000 crates over the previous week and about 37,000 greater than the amount on hand at the corresponding time last season. The present week will see the storage holdings increased, but the quantity that moves out may tend to make little change in the net tota

8b. A FLURRY IN THE MAINE POTATO MARKET

The following interesting information came in a letter of October 24 from V. H. Nicholson, at Presque Isle:-

"Maine potato market strengthened during the first part of the week, but the volume of sales later fell off and there was very little trading yesterday (Friday). Today, most shippers are lowering their prices to growers and the movement is very slow at prevailing prices of around 50¢-60¢ bulk per barrel.

"Most factors claim that the activity of this week has been caused by the chain stores buying rather heavily, in order to fill their boat which was due to clear Searsport late this week. Other factors attempted to meet the competition by chartering boats out of Searsport, but, while shippers and growers would fill orders for a few cars at prices prevailing last week, there was an immediate tightening up, when a buyer attempted to purchase in large blocks such as would be necessary to load boats out of Searsport.

"One result of the recent price fluctuation has been the increased interest of the growers in the small percentage of the crop remaining in the fields. A few fields would probably have been abandoned, but, when the street price rose to 55¢-70¢, most of the remaining fields were harvested.

"Weather conditions have been quite favorable the past two or three weeks. While there has been some frost and the temperatures have dropped below freezing point on several occasions, no damage from cold weather has been reported. Most of the crop is sheltered sufficiently to withstand temperatures below the freezing mark, although there is some stock that will have to be moved soon."

9b. A LARGE CROP OF GOOD APPLES IN OHIO

A. B. Farlinger submitted the following information in a letter of October 26 from the Cleveland office:-

"Ohio is now marketing one of the largest crops of apples ever produced in the State, and apple supplies from nearby producing sections are plentiful on the local market and more than supplying the local demand.

"Quality of the fruit is unusually good, the apples being free of insect and disease damage, and being well-graded and packed. I understand that a larger percentage of the Ohio crop is being inspected at shipping point this year than during previous seasons, and this no doubt accounts for the improvement in the grading and packing of the fruit, which compares favorably with that from any other section.

"The bushel basket and tub is used extensively. However, local farmers sell a large volume of fruit packed in one-half bushel climax baskets. Jonathans, Baldwins, Delicious, Romes, Grimes Golden, Rhode Island Greenings and Golden Delicious are the principal varieties now on the market. Some of the stock is being put in cold storage."

10b. ADDITIONS TO THE CODE, EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

On the "D" (Shipments) page of the code, add the following:

DEY-- Aroostook County Points.

On the "PA-PE" (Potato) page, add the following:

PEY - ungraded
PEZ - unclassified

11b. INTERESTING NOTES ON MICHIGAN CROPS

R. E. Keller sent the following report from Benton Harbor under date of October 24. His next report will be from Grand Rapids:-

"GRAPES: Unusually good harvesting weather has favored Michigan grape farmers. October as a whole has been quite mild and to date free from damaging frosts. As a result, farmers have had a long marketing season, and have resisted price declines by lighter offerings. The clean-up of the deal is turning out to be rather disappointing, however, as remaining supplies are heavy and deteriorating rapidly. There is little hope for a recovery, as most of the grapes will have to be moved within the next week. Few carlots are now being loaded; truck sales are far more indicative of ruling values. Truckloads f.o.b. western Michigan points on 12-quart Concords Michigan No.1 are now ranging 28¢-30¢, compared with 31¢-32¢ last Monday. The last few weeks of the grape harvest have been featured by an almost complete change from rail distribution to truck shipments. Carlot buyers started out rather strong, but the truck competition was too sharp and they had to switch to trucks to keep their tonnage.

"ONIONS are moving rather slowly, with the market continuing firm. Both farmers and shippers are holding for higher prices, offering mostly small and poor-quality stock for immediate consumption. Shipments to date are less than half those of a year ago.

"APPLES are very slow and dull. Forwardings to storage and cider plants are very heavy, and constitute the bulk of the present movement. F.o.b. sales are light, both by rail and by trucks. Farmers in this immediate vicinity, who usually sell most of their apples just as they pick them, now have their sheds, barns, and cellars filled with apples. Likewise, associations farther north have all their storage space filled and are shipping the remainder to terminal storages.

"POTATOES: The f.o.b. potato returns have strengthened slightly, sales today being made mostly at 57⅓¢ per cwt. of U.S. No. 1 Russet Rurals, whereas Monday the lowest sales were down to 50¢. Michigan's potato movement, while lighter than average, is showing up much better than a year ago, 912 cars moving to date, as against 199 last season. A very much wider distribution is also being effected, especially in Ohio and West Virginia, which is in contrast to last year, when almost all of the carlot shipments were destined to Detroit, Michigan."

12b. RECENT NEWS ON COLORADO CROPS AND MARKETS

Bryce Morris wrote as follows from Denver in a letter of October 24:-

"Potato digging in the San Luis Valley has been completed, and northern Colorado and the Montrose District will complete their harvest next week. The Carbondale section, always the last to finish, is now well under way, and all potatoes will be in storage by the last of next week. Although some rain was general throughout the State early this week, no heavy freeze has been experienced outside the mountain sections.

"The cauliflower season is practically finished. Probably not over 25 cars will yet move. Prices declined slightly here this week, with the demand very light.

"With all onion stocks in storage, independent offerings have been very light recently. Western Slope onions have continued to move in excess of the volume offered in the Arkansas Valley. Danvers advanced about 25¢ per

cwt. during the past week on No. 1 stock in open-mesh bags. It now seems probable that at least 500 cars will be shipped from the Western Slope, and possibly more."

13b. CALIFORNIA JUICE GRAPES IN DEMAND

The following report of October 26 came from A. E. Prugh, at Fresno:-

"Last week considerable activity developed in black juice grapes. Zinfandels cleaned up as high as $47.50 per ton, and, with the Jersey City auction advancing 5¢-10¢ per day, Carignanes and Alicantes sold as high as $45 Saturday. With colder weather in the East and a realization at last that the California crop was really short, New York City began to take the juice grapes at higher prices.

"With total California shipments to October 25 around 33,000 cars, compared with 55,000 to the same date a year ago, it is estimated that not over 5,000 cars of table and juice stock remain to move.

"The demand for juice Malagas was draggy until last week, when the f.o.b. price advanced to $30-$32.50. Muscats cleaned up around $50, with some wire sales as high as $55. The auction price of table Malagas declined, when poorer quality reached the markets.

"The auction price on Tokays also declined, as quality deteriorated toward the end of the season. Up to October 20, about 3,750 cars of Tokays had moved, compared with 6,250 to the same date a year ago. The rain last week in the Lodi district is reported to have practically ended Tokay shipments as table stock, but some will go out as juice stock, with the present good demand for juice grapes.

"The demand for Emperors has been draggy, partly because color has been slow in developing and partly because Tokay shipments were heavier toward the end of the season than expected.

"Present conditions indicate that very few juice grapes will be available after November 1 except Malagas. Sunday night, temperatures dropped to a minimum of 44 degrees at Fresno and 38 degrees at Lodi. With such weather, frosts are not far away.

"Comparison of weighted averages and number of packages of leading varieties sold in auction markets for the weeks ending October 16 and October 23 this year and October 24 last year is as follows:

	THOMPSONS		TABLE MALAGAS		TOKAYS		CARIGNANES		ALICANTES	
	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.	Pkgs.	Avg.
Oct. 23	51627	$1.79	174200	$1.24	187068	$1.62	345458	$1.11	480653	$1.22
Oct. 16	63953	$1.78	157348	$1.27	141304	$1.81	296216	$1.03	541631	$1.04
Oct. 24 last yr	94974	$1.58	121496	$1.33	217357	$1.45	429325	$1.07	1074659	$1.14"

14b. MORE NOTES FROM WESTERN NEW YORK

The following additional statement was received from Rochester early this week:- "Although demand was mostly limited, the f.o.b. market last week held about steady for celery of good quality. The top price was mostly $2 for 2/3 crates of 4-6 dozen. Some stock passing through packing sheds commanded a slight premium over the general field pack. The shipments of celery hearts showed an increase. This can probably be attributed to the heavier stripping required on the frost-damaged celery." Onion shipments were rather light and market values mostly unchanged. Carrots were slightly stronger.

WENDELL CALHOUN, Marketing Specialist

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7
ROCHESTER, N. Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 2	Oct. 27*
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches*	Sept. 10	Oct. 3*
			Grapes	Sept. 23	Oct. 31?
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	R. M. Peterson	Apples	Sept. 15	Nov. 14
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS ** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar. 1
			Vegetables	Jan. 1	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P. O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples	Oct. 30	Nov. 7
			Onions	Oct. 30	Apr. 2
			Potatoes	Oct. 30	May 14

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland

J. B. Owens in Chicago
H. E. Rutland at Williston, Fla

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. AN INTERESTING REPORT ON VIRGINIA APPLE INSPECTIONS

T. W. Ayres, Supervising Inspector for Virginia, wrote as follows in a letter of October 24 from University,-Va.:-

"This week will be the peak of the Virginia apple harvest, with the next week nearly as large. The various districts will issue about 1,000 certificates this week on car lots and cold-storage lots under the Virginia State lot number.

"In the Piedmont section east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the main harvest is about finished, but there will be scattered inspections for two more weeks. In this section, the apples culled heavily because of hail injury and late Bitter-Rot infections.

"The Shenandoah Valley sections do not show so much hail injury as the Piedmont, and very little decay. Red color has developed very late, particularly on Staymans and Yorks, and still is somewhat abnormal on the latter. The crops are being culled very heavily, as most large packers are not putting up unclassified stock, on account of present and prospective market conditions.

"The commercial pack, I believe, will be far below the crop estimate of 3,780,000 barrels, and it may not be more than 2,500,000 barrels.

"Prospects are that all the cold-storage plants in the apple belt will be filled, with possibly some space left at Winchester. I believe these storage holdings will be in the neighborhood of 1,250,000 barrels. We estimate that only about half of this stock has been inspected.

"Cull and Unclassified fruit is moving in large volume to cider plants, to near-by cities and the southern States by motor-truck and in bulk cars, and a very large quantity is going to waste. I do not believe the markets will clean up this class of fruit before early December.

"Some of the packing plants in the Valley are working part of the night or all night, and a few will operate the next two Sundays, in order to prevent the possibility of fruit being frozen. Most packing houses will be finished around the first of November, but a few will not finish before the 10th or 15th of the month. We will retain 12 or 15 men for cold-storage work.

"The weather is dry and cool for the apple harvest, which is a good thing, as a rain or storm would cause a very heavy drop."

2c. OHIO SHIPPING-POINT WORK NEAR AN END

M. W. Baker sent the following report from Columbus on October 26:-

"The shipping-point work on apples will be practically finished in southern Ohio by November 1. Columbiana and Mahoning sections will continue throughout the first week in November at least. However, I believe that everything will be cleaned up by November 15.

"Stayman Winesaps are giving us some trouble, so far as color is concerned. We are watching this color question very closely, and it has required and will require for the next week or 10 days pretty close supervision, as I find that color is one of the hardest things to keep inspectors on, whether it is apples or tomatoes for canning purposes."

3c. GOOD RESULTS OF CANNERY TOMATO INSPECTION WORK IN UTAH

Leonard S. Fenn, of the Salt Lake City office, sent the following letter under date of October 24:-

"There has not yet been a severe frost in the lower valley of Utah and the cannery tomato inspection work continued up until October 16, at which time the contract for delivery expired. The canners had all the tomatoes they wanted, and discontinued receiving on that date. Most of the growers' fields were well cleaned up and the production per acre is estimated around 12 tons.

"Several showers toward the end of the season helped to stimulate the growth, and quality was good through the entire season. Weather was ideal this year for high color. The percentage of No. 1 tomatoes delivered will run higher than was anticipated.

"The canners seem very well pleased with the results of the inspection work and will continue buying on the graded basis. One canner recently told me he would close down his factory, rather than buy on any other basis.

"The growers, as a whole, are also well satisfied and realize that selling on the graded basis has netted them more money per ton on their crop this season than if they had sold on a flat rate. The inspection will probably weed out about 12% of the poorest growers. One farmer just told me he grew 10 acres this year and, on the same contract, would grow 60 acres next season. I believe the cannery tomato inspection work will be a permanent part of the inspection program for Utah."

4c. FIRST BOAT SHIPMENT OF 1931 GRAPEFRUIT FROM JACKSONVILLE

R. H. von Glahn wrote as follows from Jacksonville, Florida, in a letter of October 26:-

"The first car of grapefruit for export was inspected in Jacksonville on Friday, October 23. The S. S. 'Georgian' will be the first ship carrying citrus fruit to England from Jacksonville this season and is due to sail about November 6. So far, they have 18 carloads signed up for this shipment but expect some more, and the entire cargo will probably go out under Government inspection at this point. The first inspection of grapefruit for export in Jacksonville last season was on October 6. The crop is said to be from two to three weeks later this season than last."

5c. HEAVY RAINS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICTS

Heavy rains Wednesday and Thursday (October 21 and 22) have put a temporary stop to grape shipments from the Lodi and other northern districts. However, shipments were practically finished and the inspection personnel has now been reduced to the permanent men.

Inspections in the Modesto-Turlock district have decreased some the last few days but are still fairly heavy.

Increased activity in the Emperor Sawdust Pack and Malaga juice shipments in the Fresno and Dinuba districts has been largely responsible for inspections being as heavy now as at any time this season.

. There has been no rain of any consequence in the districts south of Stockton, so far this season. (California Inspectors' Notes - October 23, 1931)

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

States	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A.S.Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., P.O. Box 1347 San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	March 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
INDIANA AND MICHIGAN:	J. E. Dickerson, Court House, Warsaw, Ind.	Onions	Aug. 15	Nov. 15
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 21
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, University, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine.	Potatoes	Sept. 14	April 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Box 1256, Winter Haven, Fla.	Citrus	Sept. 15	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas.	Citrus	Sept. 20	March 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, Brocton, N. Y.	Grapes	Sept. 28	Nov. 5

REPORTS on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R. C. Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N. D. Reports on products from other States can be obtained, as usual, from the supervisors in those States.

6c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be taken from List of Past-Due Accounts:

Mackay & Lehman	Weslaco, Texas	$4.00
McDavitt Brothers	Brownsville, Texas	$1.00
G. A. Carey, Inc.	Plant City, Fla.	$4.00

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

M. Goldman	Akron, Ohio	$3.45
Trunkey, Wolfe Co., Inc.	Wenatchee, Wash.	$24.15
Lloyd Garretson Co.	Yakima, Wash.	$4.00
O. W. Lewis Co.,	Beaufort, N. C.	$4.00

7c. OCTOBER A HEAVY INSPECTION MONTH IN WEST VIRGINIA

J. J. Gardner wrote as follows from the Martinsburg field office on October 29:-

"Saturday morning of this week, Mr. Davis and I are leaving on our final trip to the Ohio Valley district. The season will close there probably not later than November 10. I expect to be back in Martinsburg by Friday, the 6th. Peak of the apple movement will probably be passed by the end of this week. The shipments will then gradually become lighter.

"The heaviest month which we ever had here until this year was October, 1926, when something less than 1,400 cars were inspected. We passed that mark for this October last Saturday, and, should inspections continue at the present rate for the remainder of this week, we will have about as many cars for this month as we inspected all of last year. Yorks, Staymans, Ben Davis and Winesaps have turned out a much larger percentage of No. 1's than the early varieties. The demand has been fairly active recently, though not much change in prices.

"It is a little difficult to set a certain date for closing, but I believe that I will be here probably until the week of November 23."

8c. INTERESTING NOTES ON LONG ISLAND POTATOES

W. C. Hacklemen sent the following report from New York City under date of October 24:-

"I spent last Thursday down on Long Island, where things are pretty much in the same condition as they are in Aroostook County, except that there is doubtless a little better feeling because the farmers are getting about 40¢ per bushel for their No. 1 potatoes, delivered to the dealers. However, there is not much inclination to sell, even at this price. Most of the stock that is going out is by truck.

"Two innovations are being tried there, one being the packing in 15-pound open-mesh cotton bags. The usual U. S. 1 stock is being packed, except that I believe it is picked closer than when placed in larger bags, because the packing operation is slower and gives a better opportunity to see any defects that may have gotten by when the potatoes were graded and put in bins. The other idea is the use of 15-pound cartons. Most of these are a 2-inch minimum U.S. 1 potato, that is probably no better graded than the average of that stock which, however, is easily U. S. 1. They are also selecting a few of the larger potatoes and packing them 20 to the carton, each potato wrapped in paper. These are labeled: 'Fancy Bakers'. Both of these packages are merely experiments, to see what sort of a reception they

will get from the chain-store distributors.

"I presume you know in a general way the inspection arrangements down there this season. They have a force of 15 men at the present time, which will probably be cut to 12 next week. These men are stationed at the warehouses of the loading shippers on the north side of the island. No work is being done on the south shore at the present time. These men inspect the potatoes after they are graded, as they are placed in the bins, and thus keep the foremen advised of anything that is not grading U. S. 1. When the cars or trucks are loaded, they inspect them again and no shipments are permitted to go out which are not U. S. 1. The dealers there seem to feel that the idea is a very good one and are apparently well-satisfied, in spite of the fact that it is costing them quite a little money in a year when profits are small. This service is being furnished to them practically at cost."

9c. ENCLOSURES FOR INSPECTORS

With this D. L., each inspector will receive copies of the following:-

- "United States Standards for Porto Rican Pineapples, 1931."
- Farmers' Bulletin No. 1687 on "Removing Spray Residue from Apples and Pears." Joint authors are H.C.Diehl, J.M.Lutz and A.L.Ryall, all of B.P.I.

Inspectors in offices east of Chicago will also receive a copy of "Official Grades for Farm Products in Pennsylvania." If other inspectors desire this booklet, copies can be had directly from D, M. James, of the Harrisburg office.

These booklets have been furnished through Mr. Pailthorp's Project.

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

OFFICE NOTES:

R. C. Butner spent Tuesday in the Cleveland office of the Inspection Service, Wednesday in Buffalo, and Thursday at Brocton, N. Y., in the Chautauqua-Erie grape belt. He conferred with inspectors at these various points and returned to Washington today.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, assisted in conducting potato outlook conferences at La Crosse and Hastings, Florida, on October 15 and 16. State offices sponsored the meetings, and large numbers of growers and shippers attended. Much interest was manifested in the potato situation for the coming season, because of the unusual conditions this year. Before returning to Washington, Mr. Mercker held conferences with the marketing organizations in Georgia and South Carolina. At the North Carolina State College of Agriculture, he made arrangements for a series of 11 potato outlook meetings to be held in that State during early November. This week, Mr. Mercker was one of the Bureau representatives attending the regional outlook conference at State College, Pa. After the meetings in North Carolina next week, he will proceed to Memphis, Tenn., for the southern outlook conference on November 10-13.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):-

B. C. Boree probably will spend the first 10 days of November at various points in California, after which he will proceed to points in southern Texas.

A. R. Spiker was in Baltimore on Wednesday, making arrangements with one of the boat lines, which unloads large cargoes of produce in that city, for point-of-origin reports of its shipments. He also conferred with our Baltimore representatives.

Robert G. Hill, of the Standardization Project, plans to leave Washington on Sunday for Suffolk and Norfolk, Va., and Edenton, N. C., as well as other points in those States. He will make investigations looking toward the formulation of U. S. standards for cleaned and shelled Virginia-type peanuts.

After a long period of quiet in the Domestic Wool Section, renewed activity is reported in that branch of the service at the Earle Building, uptown. An alleged excess profits case on 1918 wool transactions will come to trial in the Federal district court at Indianapolis on November 9. The firm involved is Kraus and Apfelbaum of Fort Wayne, Indiana. J. S. Bohannon, of the Solicitor's Office, has gone to Chicago on wool work and will be in Indianapolis to conduct this legal case on the 9th. W. L. Evans and H. V. DeMott, of the Washington staff, will proceed to Indianapolis the latter part of next week, to appear as witnesses for the Department.

R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office, went to Wellsville, in Allegany County, New York, on Tuesday and addressed a meeting of the Rotary Club in that city. He discussed the market-news work, particularly in relation to shippers and producers, and apparently had a very appreciative audience.

W. C. Hangstafer, who had been inspecting fruits and vegetables for the Navy at Newport, R. I., all summer, returned to his headquarters in New York City about October 1.

D. C. Beeler, who last substituted in the Cincinnati office of the Inspection Service, returned to the Chicago office a few weeks ago.

J. C. Bigger, in charge of the canned fruit and vegetable grading office at Easton, Maryland, has been authorized to inspect and grade quantities of canned products for the Veterans' Administration at Wilmington, Delaware.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. PORTO RICAN GRAPEFRUIT INDUSTRY

Commercial grapefruit groves in Porto Rico are estimated as covering about 8,300 acres, according to a communication received from A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector at San Juan. This total is composed of 6,120 acres of trees six or more years old, 1,680 acres of trees from two to five years old, and 310 acres of trees one to two years old. Plantings have been light this year, amounting to around 200 acres.

Grapefruit groves in Porto Rico are largely planted on open, rolling ground or in small and irregularly shaped valleys between hills. So the only possible way to estimate the acreage was to divide the number of trees reported by grove owners by 62, or the average number of trees planted to the acre. The number of trees six years of age or older amounted to around 380,000 trees, two to five years old 104,000 trees, one to two years old 19,000 trees, and new plantings about 12,000 trees or a total of 515,000 trees.

No attempt was made to include in these acreage figures the small scattered groves in different parts of the Island, from which no fruit is shipped commercially. The figures given include the commercial plantings of Rio Piedras and Arechibo, which are located along the northern shore of the Island, and the few commercial groves around Noguabo and Mayaguez.

Grapefruit exports from Porto Rico, during the five-year period 1926-27 to 1930-31, averaged about 672,000 boxes a year. Grapefruit is exported from Porto Rico the year round, but the months of September and October and the period from March to June are the months of heaviest movement. Shipments to the United States from July to October are fairly heavy, since the season in this country does not get well under way until October. From October to March shipments to United States diminish and much of the fruit moves to the foreign markets, especially the United Kingdom. From March through June the competition in the United States is not as keen; so shipments increase again. In recent years, direct exports of Porto Rican grapefruit to Europe have increased rapidly. Prior to 1929-30 practically all that went abroad was shipped from New York. A large share of the exports still moves out this way, but no separate figures are availabe which would disclose the quantity.

Grapefruit production in Porto Rico during the 1930-31 season is estimated at approximately 1,200,000 boxes. Of this amount 521,000 were shipped as fresh fruit and about 450,000 boxes canned or consumed locally. Considerable quantities of grapefruit are canned every season in Porto Rico. The amount of fresh fruit used in this manner is estimated at about 240,000 boxes a year on an average during the five-year period 1925-26 to 1929-30. Shipments of canned grapefruit to the United States averaged 8,318,000 pounds during this period. In 1929-30 shipments to the United States reached 12,415,247 pounds.

-- INTERESTING NEWS REGARDING LOCAL CROP AND MARKET CONDITIONS IS DESIRED FROM ALL FIELD OFFICES AND CITY OFFICES. --

2a. USE BILLS OF LADING FOR EXPRESS SHIPMENTS TO WASHINGTON

A number of collect shipments have recently been received in Washington. In this connection, please refer to Par. 2a in Division Letter dated May 2, 1930, reading as follows:

> EXPRESS SHIPMENTS TO WASHINGTON - In view of the discontinuance of express charge slips, which have heretofore been issued in Washington to cover shipments sent to Washington collect, it will be necessary in future to use Government bills of lading for express shipments to Washington, similar to the procedure now being used for freight shipments to Washington.
>
> Administrative Supplement to the Handbook should be amended by striking out the asterisk in the tag form following paragraph 117 and the sentence following the asterisk at the botton of the page. From paragraph 124 strike out the words "excepting shipments to Washington by express, which should be sent 'charges collect' without using a bill of lading. All shipments from Washington are sent prepaid."

Reference to this procedure was also called to your attention in the B.A.E. News, dated April 22, 1930.

3a. NEW BULLETIN ON MOTOR-TRUCK SHIPMENTS

Brice Edwards and J. W. Park are joint authors of Technical Bulletin No. 272, which has just come from the press. Its title is: "The Marketing and Distribution of Fruits and Vegetables by Motor Truck." The bulletin contains 88 pages of valuable material and includes a considerable number of good half-tone illustrations, charts and maps. Copies are available for all who have need of this information.

4a. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MEN ON OUTLOOK COMMITTEES

The 1932 Agricultural Outlook Report is scheduled for release on February 1. A large number of commodity committees have been appointed, and the following members of our Division are assigned to the committees indicated after their names:-

R. R. Pailthorp - Foreign Demand, Pecans, and Peanuts.
H. J. Clay - Honey and Peanuts.
J. W. Park - Pecans, Citrus, Apples, and Peaches.
B. C. Boree - Sweet Potatoes, Vegetables, and Apples.
Wendell Calhoun - Vegetables, Grapes, and Strawberries.
W. E. Lewis - Vegetables and Cherries.
R. L. Spangler - Vegetables.
W. E. Leigh - Vegetables.
Robert Bier - Citrus.
P. M. Williams - Peanuts.
J. W. Strowbridge - Strawberries.
A. E. Mercker - Potatoes.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. COLD WEATHER HITS COLORADO

Bryce Morris wrote as follows from the Denver office in a letter of October 31:-

"Much-colder weather has prevailed throughout Colorado the past week but as yet no snow has fallen in the immediate vicinity of Denver, although the high mountain peaks are white now. The first hard freezes of the season occurred in Denver and vicinity this week. Practically all harvest operations have been completed in the State except on sugar beets, which will take another 10 days. There has recently been a noticeable tendency to hold for higher prices on the part of the producers of onions and potatoes. Buyers have reported it quite difficult to even secure quotations on onions, particularly on the Western Slope. Although the Colorado onion movement is practically equal to last year's at this time, the distribution from various parts of the State is considerably different, with the bulk of the movement still coming from the Western Slope, where almost two-thirds of the 1931 crop has been moved to date, while the Arkansas Valley movement is about one-half of last year's at this time. Very few onions remain in farmers' hands, and this small portion of the crop is being closely held by the growers who are waiting for even higher prices.

"A better wire demand was evident for potatoes throughout most of the week, although Friday and Saturday were very dull. Prices advanced slightly, with the demand particularly good for red potatoes. General movement from the State continues well under that of last year, with the total now slightly over one-third of last year's movement at this time. One-half of the crop has been moved from the San Luis Valley, while northern Colorado is still holding, with growers anticipating higher prices. Dealers, as a whole, report difficulty in filling orders at the present time, on account of the growers' attitude of holding."

2b. MOST WISCONSIN POTATOES GOING TO CHICAGO TERRITORY

The following information was written by A. M. McDowell from the field station at Waupaca on November 1:-

"Wisconsin potato dealers generally reported an exceedingly dull market during the past week. There was very little demand and cars were sold with difficulty. The price paid to growers was mostly 30¢-40¢, bulk per cwt., with an occasional load of exceptionally good stock bringing 45¢.

"The distribution area is gradually becoming more limited. Of last week's shipments, 55% went to Chicago and its immediate suburbs, 15% to other Illinois points, 10% to Milwaukee and 5% to St. Louis, leaving only 15% to all other points.

"Very few cars were billed to points in Wisconsin, with the exception of Milwaukee. This is probably because of the increased use of motor trucks, which dealers state are moving a greater percentage of the crop than ever before. The movement by truck is largely to points in southern Wisconsin and to some extent in northern Illinois."

HEAVY PRODUCTION is reported of the candy "all-day suckers." Machines have been developed which can turn out 400 a minute. If 100 seven-year-old children began sucking one day's production of such a machine, they would be 34 years old when they finished, according to a recent trade estimate.

3b. THE CITRUS SITUATION IN RIO GRANDE VALLEY

The following report was rendered by W. D. Googe from Brownsville, Texas, under date of November 1:-

"The citrus situation in the lower Rio Grande Valley during the past week showed practically no change. About 60 cars were shipped, including six cars of oranges which have been in fairly good demand. About a dozen cars of mixed citrus also moved. Duncan grapefruit has about played out, while Marsh Seedless has been slow in coming up to juice and maturity requirements. Widespread irrigation of groves, in an effort to increase sizes of the fruit, will doubtless delay maturity another 10 days or two weeks. Disastrous returns from shipments of small and poorly-matured fruit have about convinced shippers and growers that it is more profitable to wait until they can get something the consuming public will buy at a satisfactory price.

"Snap beans continue to move in limited volume, but increasing supplies from competing sections have caused shippers to handle them only for the growers' account. A straight car of eggplant was forwarded Thursday, growers being paid 25¢ per bushel net by a cash buyer, the shipper furnishing the baskets."

4b. MAINE POTATO MARKET DULL AND WEAK

The recent flurry in the northern Maine potato situation did not last long, according to the following letter of October 31 from V.H. Nicholson, at Presque Isle:-

"The Maine potato market has continued dull and weak for the past 10 days, and there are few indications of improvement. Shipments have decreased to a daily movement of 150 to 200 cars, or about 50 less than during the preceding week. While rainy weather probably has been partially the cause of the lighter movement, demand has been very slow and the volume of sales has been light.

"Yesterday the street price declined to mostly 45¢-50¢ bulk per barrel of U.S. No. 1 Green Mountains. This was a drop of 10¢-20¢ in the past 10 days. Most growers are very reluctant to sell at the prevailing prices, and very few potatoes have been hauled to the shippers' warehouses this week."

5b. AN INTERESTING REVIEW FROM ATLANTA

Jay C. Keller, of the Atlanta office, included the following information in a review written on October 31:-

"The jobbing houses and wholesale produce houses within a radius of several hundred miles of the Florida orange and grapefruit producing districts are facing much more motor-truck competition this season than in the past. Many people who have trucks and who, otherwise, are unemployed are going direct to citrus groves and buying fruit. With their trucks loaded, they travel to a city many miles distant, back into some vacant lot or park on a side street, and proceed to sell their wares. Wherever the conditions permit, the truckers canvass the small grocery stores, and either sell outright or place the fruit on commission.

"Railroad freight rates are practically the same as in previous years, while the merchantable value of grapefruit and oranges is considerably lower.

It has been found that, under normal conditions, these two commodities can be purchased in the country, hauled to market by truck, and sold at a small profit. A few people have been operating trucks on this basis for several years, but this year the number of these small operators has increased greatly.

"Growers are also turning to the motor truck for disposal of their fruit. One grower in particular has been called to my attention, who owns a fleet of 12 large trucks. He has his own packing plant and is delivering high-quality fruit direct to the retailers' doors in cities 600 or 700 miles distant.

"Volume of sales by local produce jobbers has been light for several months. They had hoped that the Florida citrus movement would furnish a considerable increase in trading, but the volume of oranges and grapefruit handled has been disappointing up to the present time, as trucks have supplied the market to a large extent.

"Liberal supplies of bulk ungraded apples have also been received in Atlanta from nearby producing regions. Carlot unloads of all fruits and vegetables on the Atlanta market for the past several weeks have been from 15% to 30% less than during the corresponding periods of last year, probably due in large part to the heavy truck receipts of such products as apples, citrus fruits, sweet potatoes and cabbage.

"Grape prices have recently advanced on lugs of California Tokays to $2.25, while a few Emperors brought $2. Supplies of Michigan Concord grapes were finally cleaned up by peddlers for 25¢ per 4-quart climax basket. The Atlanta trade does not like Concord grapes, and shippers who attempt to send cars here against the advice of dealers should realize this. The demand is very limited, as the chain stores and the small fruit and vegetable retail stores refuse to handle them. Peddlers are the only means of disposal for Concord grapes."

6b. RECENT MARKETING SUMMARIES

During the past week, the following additional summaries of field deals were distributed:-

"Marketing Florida Citrus Fruit, 1930-31 Season," by H. F. Willson.
"Marketing Western New York Carrots, 1930-31 Season," by R. L. Sutton and A. L. Thomas.
"Marketing Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming Potatoes, 1930-31 Season," by Bryce Morris.
"Marketing Utah Onions, 1930 Season," by L. S. Fenn.
"Marketing Western and Central New York Onions, 1930-31 Season," by R. L. Sutton and A. L. Thomas.

7b. CHRISTMAS TREES IN NOVA SCOTIA

A Truro, Nova Scotia, dispatch, November 2, states that orders for Christmas trees to supply the American trade this year are far below normal. "Even the rural American districts will have fewer Christmas trees this year than usual," said W. H. Clark, of New York, who is there to supervise the annual cut of fir trees for his firm. He blamed unemployment.

"BOSC PEARS, which went begging a month ago at $1.50 per box of Extra Fancy stock, f.o.b. shipping point, have registered a series of price-advances, with current movement active at $1.90 per box."-(Northwestern Review, Nov.2)

8b. WESTERN NEW YORK CROP NOTES

The following information came from R. L. Sutton, at Rochester, in a letter of November 3:-

"Last week the into-storage movement was completed for practically all of the celery remaining in western New York. Almost everything remaining out-doors is trenched-in and will be shipped as hearts. Cabbage movement was active over the week-end. Shipments from storage during winter may be lighter on account of heavy volumes moving from fields. Potatoes demonstrated little price change during the week. Some growers are reluctant to sell at existing prices, which have been mostly 25¢ bulk per bushel. Onions have been rather inactive. Comparatively few sales were transacted at generally unchanged prices. Shipments were increasing toward the close of the week. Carrots show little price variation, the outturn averaging about 10 cars daily.

"The report for the holdings of celery in cold storage in western New York through Friday, October 30, indicated 523,800 crates on hand. This amount is only about 1,000 less than was on hand at the same time last season. However, practically all of the celery to go into storage has been moved in, but at the corresponding time last year there was more stock uncut. In 1930, the peak of the storage holdings occurred during the first week of November, when approximately 535,000 crates were on hand. Our next report on holdings will undoubtedly show a reduction from the previous week, since most of the business now is for cars out-of-storage and there is practically none left to go in. The celery remaining out-of-doors is largely in trenches, where the cold weather will damage the leaves and outer branches to such an extent that heavy stripping will be necessary. These will be classed as hearts. F.o.b. prices for the most desirable out-of-storage stock held around $2.75 for carlots of 2/3 crates. A narrow range prevails for the sales of the late Golden Self-Blanching out of storage.

"With almost double the carlot shipments of last season, the grape deal is beginning to wane. F.o.b. activity is generally slow. In the Finger Lakes section, the season is more nearly completed and comparatively few carlot transactions are being made. Truckers are taking the majority of the offerings. In the Chautauqua-Erie section, the truck business has also been very active, with automobiles coming from points as distant as Nashville, Tenn.

"Apples continue to move in moderate quantities and f.o.b. values have shown little variation. A few cars were billed for export shipment last week. These comprise the first cars for foreign shipment in a week or more. There was a little inquiry last week from exporters, but it is believed that their offers were out of line."

9b. THE NORTHWESTERN APPLE MARKET

"Although northwestern apple loadings continue in heavy volume, shipping point market conditions are dull, with almost too few sales to establish definite values at times. Attention is now centered on Jonathans, Delicious and Spitzenburgs at consumer markets, with the northwestern boxed apple interests actively sponsoring National Apple Week, which starts today. Export demand continues quiet, with little improvement anticipated for at least another month and possibly not until January. At Hood River, about two-thirds of the 1,000-car apple crop has been moved. Oregon will probably move about 1,000 cars in addition to the Hood River contribution, according to shippers' estimates." -(Northwestern Review, Nov. 2, at Portland office)

10b. A GOOD REPORT ON POTOMAC VALLEY AREA APPLES

We are particularly pleased to receive the following report from R. M. Peterson, in charge of the field station at Martinsburg, W. Va. The letter is dated November 4:-

"Apple movement from the Shenandoah-Cumberland-Potomac district reached its peak 10 days ago, but shipments have not decreased quite as rapidly as was anticipated. Harvesting in the section south of Winchester is practically complete, but there is still considerable stock to be picked in the orchards around Martinsburg and Winchester. This unpicked fruit consists mostly of Yorks and Staymans, which were previously 'spot'-picked. The drop has been rather heavy during the past week, and extra crews have been placed in the orchards to complete the harvesting this week.

"The total carlot movement this season to November 1 from other Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia was approximately 13,780 cars, or about 5,000 cars (nearly 60%) heavier than during the same period last year, a short crop season. However, movement to that time was over 2,000 cars less than the 5-year average previous to 1930. This lighter movement was partly due to the lateness of the season, but tends to bear out the general impression that the harvested crop will be considerably lighter than the total production figures would indicate.

"Considerable stock has gone into storage and most cold-storage houses in this section are either filled to capacity or have the remaining space contracted. The stored stock runs more than normally to U.S. No. 1 grade, because it was generally felt that it would not pay to place the lower grades in cold storage this season.

"The demand, particularly for export stock, showed considerable improvement last week and prices advanced slightly at shipping points. A draggy demand the past few days has resulted in some cars being sold under last week's prices, but most shippers are holding firmly and feel confident that the market has hit its lowest level and will tend upward. The 2¾-inch minimum Yorks have been selling as low as the 2½-inch minimum and in some cases lower, because many of the larger sizes are showing poor keeping quality. This same condition exists to a lesser extent with Staymans and Black Twigs.

"Cider stock has been selling at 10¢-20¢, mostly 15-17¢, per cwt. The demand has been reasonably good for this class of stock, but the offerings have not been heavy, because the low prices hardly justified the gathering and hauling of windfalls."

11b. CODE CHANGES

Reply Requested from All Market News Offices
(Market Stations, Field Stations, and State Offices)

There has recently been some questioning of the use of "fancy" in market reports. In certain instances, as with Northwestern apples, "Fancy" is a definitely specified grade and should, of course, be quoted as such. In general trade parlance, however, such terms as "fancy" and "choice" are used loosely as terms descriptive of quality but are not defined, and they differ according to individual interpretation or the prevailing quality of the product in question. As so used, "fancy" may or may not represent the equivalent of "U.S. Fancy." Frequently it merely indicates the best on the market or the best available.

- (continued on next page)

When excellence of quality, condition, color, etc., are to be given special mention in market quotations, appropriate terms should be selected from the "JA" and "JI" code pages. "Fancy" should be used only as a definite grade (or in one instance to specify size, as noted below). It has been reported that containers are sometimes stamped "Fancy" and "Choice," but apparently these merely distinguish between comparative packs in the same lot or shipment. Unless it is known that these represent official grades for the commodity in question, such stock should be quoted on the basis of quality and condition.

Practically the same conditions that apply to the terms "fancy" and "choice" also apply to the use of "No. 1" and "No. 2." They may represent the equivalent of the U.S. grades or certain specified State grades, but more frequently they are used in a comparative sense, according to the general quality of the current offerings.

Consistent with this item, the following changes are to be made in the code, effective November 12:

On the "JI-JO-JU" page, delete JOH, JOJ and JOK.
On the "MA" (Celery) page, delete UV and UW.
On the "MU" (Lettuce) page, delete UV.
On the "MI-MY" (American Grapes) page, delete IH, IQ and IR, and change UT to read "U.S. No. 1 Concords." IR,
On the "MO" (European Grapes) page, delete IH, IQ, IN, IW and IX.
On the "NO" (Pears) page, delete all of the "I" terminals (IC to IZ, inclusive) and also delete UB and UC.
On the "NU" (Sweet Potatoes) page, change UF to read "unclassified" and delete UG.
On the "PO" (Tomatoes) page, delete UR, US, UV and UW.
On the "Supplement to T and V" (Miscellaneous phrases to combine with prices) page, delete UW and UX, change OG to read "few fine quality and condition higher" and under UM delete "Choice (other commodities)" but retain UM "C grade."
On the "WA" (Miscellaneous) page, delete OD, OF and OG, and change the lower footnote to read as follows: "# Size (for hothouse cucumbers only). Use 'JAB' page for quality."

Outdoor grown cucumbers should be quoted on the basis of U.S. grades, or by phrases from the "JA" and "JI" pages.

"Fancy Count" and "Choice Count" represent certain sizes or packs of tomatoes in 6-basket crates, for which IB and ID on the "PO" (Tomatoes) page are to be continued.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding with regard to this list of changes and deletions, each office using the Fruit and Vegetable code is requested to advise the Washington office at once that this item has been noted and that all copies of the code have been changed accordingly. This applies to State offices, which use the code, as well as all market and field stations.

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. PROMPTNESS NECESSARY IN MAKING APPEAL INSPECTIONS UNDER P.A.C. ACT

The rules and regulations of the Secretary under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, S.R.A. 121, were recently amended to provide for recognition of time required to get an appeal inspection, when report on such inspection could not be obtained within the "twenty-four hours after receipt of notice of the arrival of the produce," provided in paragraph 11, section 4, of these regulations.

The new amendment reads in part as follows: "Unless the dealer notifies the seller within 24 hours after he has received notice of the arrival of the produce that he rejects the produce, or unless the dealer applies for a Federal inspection of said produce within the same period and notifies the seller of his rejection of said produce within an hour after he has received either a verbal or a written report of the result of such an inspection or advice that NO INSPECTION CAN BE MADE within 24 hours after filing application, he will be deemed to have accepted the produce as being in accordance with the terms of the contract relating to such produce."

It was not the desire of the Department in making this amendment to extend the time within which the receiver shall either accept or reject. It is, therefore, highly desirable that both regular and appeal inspections in such cases be made immediately upon receipt of application, and that the applicant be notified by phone of the results. Those offices which are on leased wire should always find out whether or not the reports of appeal inspections to Washington can be transmitted immediately. If not, the report should be sent at once by Western Union.

Cases of this kind, when it is known that they involve complaints under the P.A.C. Act, should take precedence over all other inspection work. If there is any probability that inspection cannot be made and report delivered within 24 hours after receiving the application, the applicant should be so advised. He will then be required to rely on his own judgment in accepting or rejecting the shipment in question within the allotted 24 hours.

It sometimes happens that the shipping-point certificate on which a report is desired has not been received in Washington. When an appeal is involved in such cases, this office will wire the shipping-point supervisor for the report and advise the receiving-point inspector to proceed with the appeal and wire results here. It is expected that the shipping-point report will be on hand by the time the results of appeal inspection are known, so that prompt advice may be given regarding the proper procedure as to reversing or sustaining the original. In order that the Washington office may know whether it is necessary to wire the shipping-point supervisor for a report, all wires for reports on cars involved in appeal inspections should end with the word "Appeal." Unless the telegram ends with the word "Appeal," it will not be considered necessary for this office to wire the shipping-point supervisor for a report.

1½c. SHORT GRADE FORMS FOR WASHINGTON STATE APPLES

During the past week, all inspectors were sent copies of the short grade forms for Washington State apples, 1931. If anyone was overlooked, he should request a copy from the Washington, D. C., office.

2c. "MOSTLY" MEANS MORE THAN 50%

Appeal inspections are often requested for size only and sometimes involve the question of size of most of the lot. When the shipping-point certificate shows the size mostly $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, appeal inspection should be made to determine whether more than 50% of the lot falls between the stated range and, if so, it should be reported accordingly. The statement that most of the lot ranges from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 inches in diameter would not reverse a shipping-point certificate showing mostly $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and if a lot is mostly $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 inches it certainly would be mostly $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, if there were any stock over 2 inches. There can be several size gradations to which the term "mostly" would apply, all of which may be correct, but appeal inspection must always be based on the same "mostly" as stated on the original. The statement of "mostly" will be reversed only when appeal inspection shows less than 50% between the range stated.

3c. POTATO INSPECTIONS IN MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA

G. W. Christenson, Supervising Inspector located at Minneapolis, sent the following report under date of October 26:-

"The potato shipping season is well under way in Minnesota and North Dakota, and we have had a fairly good volume of inspections, in spite of the price of potatoes. The Hollandale section will fall far below expectations, because of the fact that there were a few hundred carloads trucked out and also because of the short crop. Another week or two will wind up inspections in that section.

"On August 17, I started the first training class in Minneapolis, for men who had had some inspection experience. This class consisted of 13 men, of whom I accepted 12. On about August 20, I started a training class for 26 new men, who had been gathered by the State. Of these, I have issued cards to only six. I would have accepted five others, but they could not be put to work immediately and, in the meantime, accepted other work. After the season was well under way, I trained three or four additional men.

"In North Dakota, I held a series of classes at Fargo, Buxton and Hoople. Nearly all of the men were gathered at Hoople. Mr. Hastings had spent considerable time, picking out men for this work. Of the 26 men, I accepted 23, some of whom are on a car basis.

"There was a little difficulty at the start of the season in Minnesota, because of the fact that, at the time I was in North Dakota training the men, I should have been at Hollandale. However, the Association at Hollandale has been well satisfied with the service and men stationed there.

"It was rather unfortunate that the cooperative work should start in these two States at the same time that each State put in force its new labeling act. Together with low prices, inspection and tagging laws, some dealers are sorting out more than is necessary and making the growers haul the sort-outs back home. They object to some of the stock which they are obliged to haul back.

"All the available warehouses are full of potatoes and I expect the heaviest work in Minnesota to start about the latter part of January."

ABOUT 100 CARLOADS of northwestern apples will be distributed through vending machines at railroad stations, drug stores, newsstands and other transient crowd spots of the East and the Middle West this winter.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

States	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., P. O. Box 1347, San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	March 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
INDIANA AND MICHIGAN:	J. E. Dickerson, Court House, Warsaw, Ind.	Onions	Aug. 15	Nov. 15
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 21
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, University, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine.	Potatoes	Sept. 14	April 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Box 1256, Winter Haven, Fla.	Citrus	Sept. 15	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas.	Citrus	Sept. 20	March 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.	Fruits & Vegetables	Nov. 9	Dec. 15

REPORTS on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R. C. Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N. D. Reports on products from other States can be obtained, as usual, from the supervisors in those States.

4c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be taken from the List of Past-Due Accounts:

Lloyd Garretson Co.,	Yakima, Washington	$4.00

The following should be added to the List of Past-Due Accounts:

C.S. Lowthrop & Co.,	Hope, Arkansas	$4.00
Midwest Fruit Co.,	Muskogee, Oklahoma	$10.30

R. C. BUTLER,
Supervisor of Inspection

OFFICE NOTES:

J. W. Park left Washington on Wednesday evening for the South. He will go to Jackson, Miss., and will spend about two weeks in the pecan belt of the South, to observe the grading and packing of pecans on the basis of the United States standards for that product. From November 10 to 13, Mr. Park will be at Memphis, attending the sessions of the southern outlook conference, where he will represent this Division on the outlook for fruits and peanuts.

B. C. Boree will leave Los Angeles, Calif., by November 10, and proceed to Texas. After visiting the market-news offices in that State, he will stop at Kansas City and St. Louis on his return to Washington.

J. G. Cross has completed his work on shipment reports in the State of Florida and will be at various other points in the South for a few days, probably reaching St. Louis by Tuesday. His next stops after St. Louis will be at Kansas City, Omaha, and Chicago.

Herbert Graff, inspector in Washington, was at Roanoke, Va., on Thursday, making an appeal inspection of a car of potatoes.

E. E. Conklin, Jr., of the Chicago inspection office, was called to Syracuse, N. Y., this week on account of serious illness of his father.

M. C. Gregory, of the Fort Worth office, is spending the last few days of this week in Oklahoma, conferring with State officials and getting the shipping-point inspection work on sweet potatoes lined-up properly. A. H. Polster, of the Dallas office, substitutes for Mr. Gregory in his absence.

A. E. Prugh plans to close the field station at Fresno, Calif., by the end of this week and will spend the next few days there, preparing his preliminary review of the grape season. He will then go to San Francisco and confer with W. F. Cox regarding material for the final, complete summary of the deal. Following a short period of annual leave, Mr. Prugh will report early in December at Phoenix, Ariz., where he will issue market reports on winter lettuce.

In view of the above item, Fresno should be dropped after this week from the list of Temporary Field Stations of the Market News Service.

The D.L. editor will appreciate interesting news items from your office.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):

W. E. Harrison, of the Baltimore office, was in Washington on Wednesday, conferring on matters relating to the market-news work. A recent development of interest in Baltimore has been the export of some 80 carloads of apples from that port to European markets.

It is understood that J. A. Marks will close the Brocton, N. Y., office of the Shipping-Point Inspection Service this Saturday and will make his headquarters in the Rochester office until the last of the year. He will continue to serve as Federal Supervising Inspector of New York products.

Paul M. Williams, in charge of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Service, expects to proceed within a few days to Chicago and Milwaukee and other points in that territory. He will attend the meeting of the Wisconsin Canners' Association at Milwaukee on November 11, and give an address on: "The New Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Service." At Chicago, Mr. Williams will confer with E. P. Bostwick, in charge of the branch office in that city, and with members of the trade and other interested persons. He will also address a meeting of the Illinois Warehousemen's Association in Chicago on the evening of November 10.

J. D. Hamilton, of the Portland office, has gone to Bellingham, Wash., to draw samples of canned goods, which will later be graded in behalf of the Veterans' Administration. W. L. Close, of the Salem, Oregon, office is performing a similar service at Salem.

J. C. Bigger, who has been in charge of the Easton, Md., office of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Service, will close that office by the end of this week and come to Washington for temporary assignment here.

R. H. Shoemaker, of the Regulatory Branch, left Washington on Wednesday and will make investigations under the P.A.C. Act at Indiana, Pa., and Cleveland, Ohio. Today he is in Youngstown, Ohio, attending the public hearing in the case of K. W. King Company vs. Mathew Mercurio & Company. He will be back in Washington by the early part of next week.

The excess-wool-profits case, which was to be tried in the Federal district court at Indianapolis next Monday, has been postponed until Monday, November 16, and W. L. Evans and H. V. DeMott have had to delay their trip to Indianapolis until the latter part of next week.

Miss Lucy Watt, of the Washington market-news offices, was called to her home in Greensburg, Pa., today on account of illness of her father.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. APPLES IN COLD STORAGE ON NOVEMBER 1

The following figures on apples in cold storage November 1 were released by the Bureau in Washington on Thursday:-

	Barrels	Boxes	Baskets
November 1, 1931:	2,263,000	14,670,000	9,575,000
November 1, 1930:	1,571,000	15,669,000	6,748,000
Five-year Average:	2,358,000	11,529,000	4,721,000

Total cold-storage holdings are equivalent to 10,345,000 barrels, or 14% more than last year and 33% above average. About 80% of the boxed apples were still in Pacific Coast storages.

2a. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

The following summaries of field deals have been issued this week:-
"Marketing Texas Spinach, 1930-31 Season," by Marvin G. Longino, of the San Antonio office.
"Marketing Colorado Onions, 1930-31 Season," by Bryce Morris, Denver office.

The next two items were taken from "The Facts in Food Distribution," published in New York City on November 7:

3a. FORD FARM GIVES EMPLOYMENT TO MANY

"Upward of 100,000 bushels of carrots on the Ford 12,000-acre farm will be gathered by 650 men, several times the number usually needed for harvesting with machinery. Mr. Ford has already vetoed several suggestions to use modern machinery on his farm this year."

4a. TRAINS CARRY TRUCKS TO SOLVE COMPETITIVE PROBLEM

"Service designed to offset truck competition by offering the transportation of loaded truck bodies by rail--costing less than operation of trucks over the same distance--will be started by the Pennsylvania, B. & O. and Central of New Jersey railroads. Trucks will be lifted from chassis to railway car and put down at the destination without charge, rates providing a flat charge according to weight of the truck body. New service will be provided between Jersey City-Hoboken-Philadelphia, Scranton, Baltimore and Richmond."

THE POTATO CROP FORECAST was increased to about 382,000,000 bushels by November 1, or slightly more than the five-year average figure. Total production is now estimated to be 11% greater than last season.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. TEXAS CITRUS MOVEMENT INCREASING

W. D. Googe reported as follows from Brownsville in a letter of November 8:-

"Citrus shipments from the lower Rio Grande Valley last week increased approximately 90% over those of the week before, totaling more than 130 cars. About 110 of these were grapefruit. Although figures are not available, it is estimated that three-fourths of the grapefruit was Marsh Seedless. Motor-truck movement is about one-fourth of the rail movement. About two-thirds of the citrus shipped in trucks is packed in bushel baskets and tubs, and consists of small sizes and culls. One load for Lubbock, Texas, was in small fiber open-mesh sacks, containing one-eighth of a box. As the hauling distance is about 800 miles, considerable curiosity exists as to how these packages would stand up under those conditions.

"It is expected that shipments will increase gradually during the next two weeks. The weather is fairly cool, but no rain has been reported. In general, fruit is being handled for the account of the grower. A few cars have been loaded by independent shippers, who paid growers 1¢ to 1¼¢ per pound for U.S. No. 1 Marsh Seedless.

"About 10 cars of beets were shipped during the week,- a new record for early shipments in the Valley. There was also a car of mixed vegetables consisting of beets, carrots, eggplant and squash. The movement of snap beans in express lots has held about steady, in the aggregate probably totaling four or five cars a week."

2b. FREEZING WEATHER IN NORTHERN MAINE POTATO DISTRICT

V. H. Nicholson reported as follows in a letter of November 7 from Presque Isle:-

"There has been little activity in the Maine potato market. Shipments the past week were very light. Despite the comparatively light track-holdings in most terminal markets, demand is limited and there has been only a small volume of sales.

"The street price remained close to 50¢ bulk per barrel, but a firmer tone has been noticed the last two days. Temperatures dropped to around 22 degrees Thursday night, but most of the crop is protected to withstand temperatures that low and no damage is expected."

3b. MANY WISCONSIN POTATOES HAULED BY TRUCK

The following brief report came from A. M. McDowell, at Waupaca, under date of November 8:-

"There was very little change in the Wisconsin potato situation during the past week. The mild weather has permitted truck movement to continue without interruption. Although the prices paid by the truckers are about the same as by the warehouses, net returns to growers are possibly a little higher, due to the reduction in hauling costs and to the fact that grading may not be quite so strict. The volume moving by truck will undoubtedly continue about as at present, until the weather becomes too cold."

4b. RECENT CROP NOTES FROM MICHIGAN

R. E. Keller submitted the following information in a letter of November 7 from Grand Rapids:-

"Onions:- During the past week trading has been quite dull, with farmers and shippers holding firmly on quality stock. Many of the present shipments are of distress stock, consisting of small-sized poor-quality onions that will not hold up in storage. Cash buyers, representing large terminal marketing houses, are buying most of this stock direct. The pressure of this smaller stock is as yet keeping most of the city quotations below the speculative market on the better-quality larger-sized onions at shipping point.

"Potatoes:- Demand has been rather slow, with the market continuing dull and weak. Shippers last week reduced the price to farmers to 25¢ per cwt., which is now reacting in lighter offerings. Shipments to date are more than triple those of a year ago, and present indications are that Michigan's carlot movement will exceed that of either of the past two seasons.

"Apples:- The apple market is very dull. F.o.b. sales are scarce. The trucking demand, which aided in moving so much of the previous fruit crops, is conspicuously light. From present indications, Michigan will be shipping heavily for some time. A year ago, most of the apple crop had been sold and shipped."

5b. LOW PRICES FOR IDAHO POTATOES

The following report was taken from a letter of November 6, written by R. G. Risser, at Idaho Falls:-

"The first week in November has developed no improvement in the market for Idaho potatoes. Demand has been very light and the market weak. Producers are still receiving only 35¢-40¢ per cwt. of U.S. No. 1 Russets, and from 5¢ to 10¢ for U.S. No. 2 stock.

"Figures on production and shipments indicate that there are more potatoes in the United States to be moved from now on than there were a year ago. If consumer demand should be no better this winter than last winter, the prospect is not bright. On the other hand, the western crop is lighter than a year ago and, while the size and quality are generally inferior, the condition of stock is better because a large part of the crop was harvested without freezing-injury and went into storage clean and dry."

6b. COLORADO CAULIFLOWER MOVEMENT ENDED; OTHER CROPS IN STORAGE

Bryce Morris sent the following brief report from Denver in a letter of November 7:-

"The Colorado cauliflower season ended this week, with the total movement 1,430 cars, approximately 120 more than were shipped last year. Weather conditions have continued ideal, with no storms to date. The sugar-beet crop in northern Colorado will be practically all harvested by the end of next week. Potatoes and onions are all in storage. Growers continue to hold for higher prices on both of these commodities.

"One car of New York Concord grapes was unloaded today and sold at 75¢ per 12-quart basket. These are the first New York grapes received on the Denver market in the past five seasons."

7b. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN NEW YORK

R. L. Sutton included the following information in a report of November 10 from the Rochester office:-

"During the past seven days, slight improvement has been shown in the potato market. F.o.b. carlot values advanced slightly and prices paid to growers increased 5¢. Cabbage movement continues liberal, demand limited, and market generally weak. Celery holdings were reduced by about 70 cars, trading is slow, and the market rules slightly easier. Not much change was noted in onions, but market has shown tendency to be dull. Apples increased somewhat in output. Conspicuous were the quantities going to cider plants. Little movement shown for export. Carrots continued mostly unchanged, there being about a 10¢ variation in prices of 100-pound sacks. The grape season is about concluded. Only a few cars are remaining in the Chautauqua-Erie belt, which extends into Pennsylvania. Approximately 4,000 cars out of New York State this season to date.

"Interest displayed last week by chain-store operators was largely responsible for the improvement in the potato situation. Recent reports indicate growers to be receiving mostly 30¢, bulk per bushel, for their offerings. The colder weather of last week served as a stimulus for some of the growers to start moving their potatoes from farm storage to warehouses. Realizing that freezing temperatures would be detrimental, it is to be assumed that haulings should hold up fairly well, prior to the setting-in of real winter. Of the markets receiving western New York potatoes, Pittsburgh is by far taking the lead. During recent days, more than one-third of the total roll has been destined to that market.

"The distribution of cabbage is widespread, with an average day's shipments being billed to 45 or 50 different markets. Loaded cars that accumulated on track at some of the shipping points were disposed of at a loss to the original buyer. In some instances, carlot sales of bulk Danish last week went as low as $6 per ton. Prices paid to growers are reported mostly $5-$6, bulk per ton.

"Celery holdings have been reduced by about 70 cars since our last cold-storage report. The quantity on hand through November 6 in western New York was 506,824 crates. At this time last year, the storage holdings had reached a maximum of 534,642 crates for the season. Dealers seem to feel generally that there is much ordinary stock in storage. It would appear that an active movement should occur before Thanksgiving. By so doing, much of the celery with the short storage life can be moved into consumption. California will have to be counted as a factor from now until the close of the New York season. Reports from Florida indicate an abnormally heavy acreage of celery to be cut in January.

"An appreciable volume of apples is being shipped to cider plants. During recent days, as many as 15 cars, or nearly one-third the total, could be seen from the destination records to be going to juice-plants. Shipments for export were slightly heavier. Even with the depreciated British currency, it is believed that most of the export movement is on consignment. On this basis, the shippers are paid at the current exchange value of the pound sterling. Carlot shipments of New York apples are about 4,000 cars behind those of last season."

EARLY ONION ACREAGE IN SOUTHERN TEXAS may possibly exceed that of any past season, if the intended 21,340 acres materialize. Last year there were 17,200 acres of early onions in Texas.

8b. ADDITION TO THE CODE, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20

On the "KA-KE-KI" page of code, add the following under Containers:

KIBUD - Bulk per barrel measure

9b. INTERESTING GRAPEFRUIT SITUATION IN MINNEAPOLIS MARKET

L. C. Tate sent the following report from Minneapolis under date of November 10:-

"Developments in the local grapefruit situation are interesting. Last year Florida shippers, in order to compete with Texas, sent a considerable quantity of bulk grapefruit into this market. Near the end of the season it seems the Florida shipments of bulk fruit showed a continual decline in quality. Local dealers eventually came to regard this stock as 'junk' and, when the current season opened, there was practically no demand for this style of loading.

"Texas fruit is moving freely on the local market, at present bringing generally the same price as Florida stock. Yesterday, Mr. Ferguson and I looked at a car of boxed Florida No. 2 grapefruit. Although inspection was required on the basis of that grade, it seemed that this fruit was the equal of No. 1. Apparently the Florida operators feel that high-grading will reestablish their market here, and are using these fine-quality No. 2's as a leader.

"Judging by the volume of sales recently reported to our office, the bushel basket packed in Texas is the main reason for that State having a preference on this market. Baskets have moved twice as fast as boxes during the past month. Florida bulk receipts, locally packed in bushel baskets, enjoy a fairly good movement, but boxes are exceptionally slow. Because of the variance in sizes among bulk loads, bushels packed locally do not have the attractive appearance of the Texas fruit.

"California tomatoes have become a prominent market line during the last 10 days. Western and Michigan celery are fast replacing homegrown stock. A considerable number of carloads have been bought for prompt loading, in anticipation of a good holiday market later this month. Oregon stock, on a delivered basis, is bringing around 50¢ premium over California delta stock and about $1 premium over Venice celery."

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist

ALL MARKET-NEWS OFFICES should be sure to make all changes in the code, as listed in the Division Letter.

See Par. 8b on this page.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 2	Oct. 27*
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches*	Sept. 10	Oct. 3*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Nov. 7*
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	R. M. Peterson	Apples	Sept. 15	Dec. 12
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS ** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar. 1
			Vegetables	Jan. 1	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples	Oct. 30	Nov. 20
			Onions	Oct. 30	Apr. 2
			Potatoes	Oct. 30	May 14
The following station closed on date indicated:					
FRESNO, CALIF.** 212 Holland Bldg.	919	A. E. Prugh	Grapes	July 22	Nov. 7

** State cooperating *Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
A. E. Prugh on leave at Los Angeles
J. B. Owens in Chicago
H. E. Rutland at Williston, Fla.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. WARM WEATHER AFFECTING INDIANA-MICHIGAN ONIONS IN STORAGE

J. E. Dickerson sent the following information from Warsaw, Indiana, in a letter of November 10:-

"I shall return to the Indianapolis office on November 15 but receiving-point inspectors should continue to wire the Warsaw office on both Indiana and Michigan onions, to obtain a prompt reply. The work in both States will, no doubt, continue through the winter until about April 10.

"The onion crop is turning out even shorter than originally anticipated. Sizes are still running exceptionally small, especially in the extreme north-eastern part of the onion district. Recently we have inspected several cars in which the onions were run over a one-inch screen.

"The weather has been exceptionally warm, and we have noted that onions in practically all the storages show an exceptional amount of sprouts for this time of the year. Decay is also considerably more prevalent than usual. Because of these facts, we anticipate a relatively heavy movement of onions in December and early in January, to salvage as much of this stock as possible, - especially if the weather continues mild.

"Prices have advanced materially within the last week but the movement is light, due probably to the fact that most of the onions are in the hands of speculators who have already placed the stock in storage. The stock that does remain in the growers' hands is either exceptionally poor and the buyers have not seen fit to purchase it at any price, or it is above the average stock which the grower is holding for higher prices."

2c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be taken from List of Past-Due Accounts:

D. A. Orza,	204 Franklin St., New York City	$12.00
M. Goldman,	Akron, Ohio	$3.45

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Agricultural Exchange,	Pittsburgh, Pa.	$1.00

3c. LOS ANGELES CAULIFLOWER MOVING

F. C. Cadwallader reports that cauliflower inspections are picking up very rapidly in the Los Angeles district. He expects to need the full force of inspectors by November 5. At present, they are inspecting about 90% of the shipments. So far, the cauliflower has been of very good quality and the shippers have not been shipping any below 85% U.S. No. 1. The general feeling is that this standard will be held throughout the season, as the acreage is considerably larger than last year. A few cars of celery have also been inspected. (California Inspectors' Notes, October 30)

THE SWEET-POTATO CROP PROSPECTS were reduced during October by continued dry weather in the South, although eastern producing States showed considerable gains. Total production is now forecast at 73,500,000 bushels, compared with 62,200,000 last year and a five-year average of 80,300,000 bushels. Average yield per acre is only a little over 84 bushels,- 11 bushels below the long-time average for the United States.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., P. O. Box 1347, San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	March 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
WEST VIRGINIA:	J. J. Gardner, Shenandoah Bank Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.	Apples	Aug. 20	Nov. 21
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, University, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 14	April 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Box 1256, Winter Haven, Fla.	Citrus	Sept. 15	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas.	Citrus	Sept. 20	March 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.	Fruits & Vegs.	Nov. 9	Dec. 15

REPORTS on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R. C. Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N. D.

REPORTS on Indiana and Michigan onions can be had from Federal-State Inspection, Court House, Warsaw, Ind.

4c. FLORIDA SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS

The following report was recently received from Florida. It covers shipping-point inspections in that State for the last half of October:-

	FRUITS			
	Grapefruit	Oranges	Mixed Citrus	Total
Oct. 16-31:	186	35	13	234
To Oct. 15:	67	1	-	68
Thru Oct. 31:	253	36	13	302

NO VEGETABLES inspected.

Total Inspections through Oct. 31:

Year -	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926
Cars -	302	362	61	294	205	105

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

OFFICE NOTES:

B. C. Boree, en route back to Washington, will take a few days' leave in southern Illinois and will probably not be at his desk until after Thanksgiving.

Sympathy is extended to Miss Lucy Watt, of the Washington staff, in the death of her father at Greensburg, Pa., last Tuesday. Miss Watt probably will return to duty next week, after being at her home since November 6.

The annual convention of the American Veneer Package Association was held at the Wardman Park Hotel, in Washington, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. This is the national organization, manufacturing fruit packages. Sessions of the convention were attended by C. W. Kitchen, Assistant Chief of Bureau, and by H. A. Spilman and L. C. Carey, of the Fruit and Vegetable Division.

BIRMINGHAM office of the Inspection Service will be reopened about Tuesday, November 17. W. W. Anderson, who has been handling special certification work on apple exports at Montreal, Canada, will complete that work by Saturday of this week, and will proceed to his headquarters at Birmingham, stopping at the Washington office en route.

D. L. Lacy, who was substituting in the Columbus office of the Inspection Service for a few months, has now returned to his headquarters in Chicago. M. W. Baker has again assumed charge in Columbus, after having supervised inspection work at shipping points throughout Ohio.

D. C. Beeler, of the Chicago inspection staff, will be on annual leave until December 1.

Don't forget that you can increase the value of the D.L. by furnishing timely information from your territory.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):

J. E. Dickerson will be in charge of the Indianapolis office after this week, having completed his personal supervision of onion inspections in the northern part of the State.

B. H. Rowell, who had been substituting in the Indianapolis office, was called to Kansas City last Tuesday on account of the death of his wife's mother. He has now returned to his headquarters in Chicago.

A. F. Carr, one of the eight cooperative inspectors who handle railroad inspections at the Northern Ohio Food Terminal in Cleveland, resigned, effective October 30.

F. G. Robb, of the Regulatory Branch, is on annual leave until November 23.

H. V. DeMott, of the Domestic Wool Section, went to Boston on Monday to obtain additional records on 1918 wool transactions from the files of the Wool Purchasing Quartermaster. He then went to Detroit and assisted J. S. Bohannon, of the Solicitor's Office, in preparing a bill of particulars in another excess-wool-profits case. He will be at Indianapolis by the end of this week to assist in the case which will be tried in the District Court at Indianapolis on Monday.

J. S. Bohannon was in Chicago on Monday. Before Judge Wilkerson, of the Federal District Court, Mr. Bohannon argued a motion in the excess-wool-profits case against S. Silverman & Son, of Chicago.

At the urgent request of apple growers and shippers in the Potomac Valley area, the market-news office at Martinsburg will be kept in operation until about December 12.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 46 November 20, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. USE OF PERSONALLY-OWNED AUTOMOBILES FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL

Reference is made to Par. 1-a in Division Letter dated October 16, 1931, discontinuing the use of personally-owned automobiles except for relatively long trips such as between permanent or temporary posts of duty and for travel paid by a State or other agency under cooperative agreement.

It was hoped, when the above item was published, that definite information could be obtained at an early date from the office of the Comptroller General as to just what constitutes official travel at a permanent station, for which the payment of mileage for the use of a personally-owned automobile cannot be allowed, and what constitutes travel away from an official station, for which payment of mileage can be allowed. But thus far no information in this respect, which can be used generally, has been given out. This Division, therefore, is not yet in a position to authorize mileage for the use of a personally-owned automobile for travel anywhere in the vicinity of a post of duty with confidence that expense accounts, including this item, will be passed for payment by the Comptroller General's office.

There appears, however, to be a trend toward leniency in the auditing of accounts involving the payment of mileage for personally-owned automobiles and, for this reason, it is now thought possible to authorize to some extent mileage for personally-owned automobiles for travel between temporary or permanent posts of duty and outlying points in connection with the work of the post of duty, where the official work is being handicapped by the discontinuance of such authority. This authority, if granted, will be limited to the allowance of mileage only in cases where travel by personally-owned automobiles is more economical and advantageous to the United States due to the fact that the use of street car, train, or bus would cause the trip to be prolonged for an unreasonable length of time or that the points to be visited are not accessible by public means of transportation and the hire of special transportation would be more expensive than the allowance of mileage. Having in mind, therefore, that mileage may be allowed for certain types of travel out of temporary or permanent posts of duty, those in charge of branch offices and field men who are experiencing a real handicap in their work by the discontinuance of the use of personally-owned automobiles are requested to write the Washington office at once, stating in detail how the work is being handicapped and estimating as nearly as possible the points to which it will be desired to travel by personally-owned automobiles and the frequency of such trips. Upon receipt of this information, each case will be taken up with the Accounting Offices.

The type of travel by means of personally-owned automobiles, which will not be approved, is similar to the instances quoted below:--
St. Paul to Minneapolis, 11 miles; Chicago to Union Stockyards, Chicago; Omaha to Council Bluffs, Iowa, 4 miles; St. Louis to East St. Louis, 5 miles;

Washington, D. C., to Potomac Yards, Va., 7 miles,- especially if performed frequently.

2a. NEW BULLETIN ON SHIPMENTS BY ORIGINATING STATIONS

Statistical Bulletin No. 35 has just come from the press. It is entitled: "Car-lot Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables from Stations in the United States for the Calendar Years 1928 and 1929." Mrs. Leona Norgren, of Mr. Pailthorp's project in Washington, compiled this valuable information which covers 150 pages. Two special features are included in this bulletin,- a table showing the usual shipping period for each product in each State, and a table comparing rail movement and motor-truck shipments of 23 leading products from 13 important areas. The bulletin covers shipments of 37 different fruits and vegetables, and includes a total of about 1,073,000 cars for each of the two years, 1928 and 1929.

Copies of this bulletin have been sent to all market and field stations of the Fruit and Vegetable Division. Copies also were recently distributed of Technical Bulletin No. 272, on motor-truck shipments. If any office has use for additional supplies, they can be had from Washington.

3a. TRUCKS HAULING CONSIDERABLE FLORIDA CITRUS FRUIT

The first news letter of the season from H. F. Willson, at Winter Haven, is published below. It is dated November 17:-

"The truck movement of Florida citrus fruit for the current season to November 14 reached a total of 566 cars. For the past 10 days, the range has been from 20 to 30 cars daily, with a peak day of 32 cars. In contrast to the heavier movement of grapefruit earlier in the season, there have been more oranges than grapefruit the past few days. To date the motor-truck movement of oranges has been 295 cars, grapefruit 269, and tangerines 2, or a grand total of 566 carloads.

"This is the first season that accurate figures of the truck movement have been available, and a common expression is: 'I didn't think there was so much fruit being moved by truck this early in the season.' It is generally predicted that these shipments, during the peak, will be at least 50 to 60 cars a day, and a few are of the opinion that the peak day will approach 100 cars. The first part of December will undoubtedly be the period of heaviest movement by truck. There will be no maturity restrictions and the trucks will be an important factor in supplying markets, particularly in the Southeast, with their citrus for the holiday trade.

"The truck movement is being supplied to the local Federal-State Market News office through the courtesy of the Commissioner of Agriculture in this State. Mr. Mayo arranged to secure this information from his highway guards,- about 25 inspectors who cover all highways leaving the State. The data include all fruit delivered north of a line drawn east to west through High Springs, Florida, but they do not include any fruit delivered to points south of this line. Practically all of the truck movement reported is interstate."

-THE WASHINGTON OFFICE WISHES ALL EMPLOYEES A HAPPY THANKSGIVING SEASON.-

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. POTATO GRADES DISCUSSED AT MEETING IN WISCONSIN

The following interesting report came in a letter of November 14 from A. M. McDowell, at the Waupaca office:-

"A slightly firmer market was noticeable for Wisconsin potatoes during the past week. Demand continued rather light and on several days there were very few sales reported. Wire inquiry was slightly better but was mostly at lower prices.

"Growers have been reluctant to sell their crop at prevailing prices and are releasing only enough to provide them with cash for groceries and other expenses. Most of the stock in warehouses is still in the hands of growers, and there is a large undetermined quantity held in farm storage.

"On Thursday evening (Nov. 12) a meeting, attended by most of the dealers in the State, was held to discuss the desirability of inserting a commercial grade in the State standards. These now provide for the following grades: U.S.Fancy, U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2, and potatoes not intended to be marketed in accordance with these grades are to be designated as 'Ungraded'. In certain parts of the State, particularly the south central portion including Waushara, Adams and Marquette counties and parts of Portage and Waupaca counties, quality is very poor and in most loads from 30% to 50%, and in extreme cases as high as 80%, must be sorted out, in order to meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade. In other parts of the State, quality is considerably better but some difficulty is being encountered, principally on account of growth cracks, second growth and misshapen potatoes. Until recently, warehousemen were buying only U.S. No. 1 potatoes, but in the last few days one or two dealers have been buying ungraded or (more properly)partly-graded stock. There has been considerable objection to the term 'Ungraded' and recently potatoes have been allowed to move as 'Unclassified.'

"After a lengthy discussion, the majority at the meeting voted in favor of retaining the grades as they are at present. An attempt was then made to effect a shippers' agreement to limit the percentage of defects in the 'Ungraded' cars. Limits of 12%, 20% and 25% were suggested, but no decision could be reached. It is now possible that three shippers, including the largest two in the State, will try within the next few days to make an agreement among themselves. If such an agreement is reached, the limit will probably be set at 25%, as this will be of most benefit to the sections needing aid."

2b. IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS SITUATION

"Certain elements have appeared in the domestic business situation during the past few weeks which tend toward a restoration of business confidence. Among these are the organization of the National Credit Corporation to strengthen banking conditions; a rise in certian commodity prices such as cotton and wheat, and a rise in industrial stock prices. A good part of the rise in stock market prices since the lowest level of this depression, reached on October 5, has been maintained and there has been a firming of bond prices in recent weeks, particularly the lower grade bonds, which have declined most in this depression. The advances in cotton and wheat prices have given a measure of stability to the general level of commodity prices by counteracting the declines in some commodities. They have also tended to improve the purchasing power of wheat and cotton producers here and in other countries."

3b. UNUSUALLY MILD WEATHER IN MICHIGAN

R. E. Keller submitted the following report from Grand Rapids on November 14:-

"Michigan's mild November weather has been ideal for the general public but not so for the produce business. In Berrien County, in the southwestern part of the State, the weather has continued so mild that many of the late fall vegetables, such as tomatoes and Lima beans, are still being harvested. Cold weather is needed to put snap into the demand for the regular winter fruits and vegetables. Apples, onions and potatoes have been very draggy, in face of sharp declines in offerings, and prices have sagged because the demand was lacking.

"Apples:- Michigan's fruit is practically all picked and under cover. Distress stock, for which storage has not been available, is now fairly well cleaned up. A large share of the remaining crop is in common storage and some concern is evidenced about the keeping quality, if the weather continues warm. Some of the shippers, who put apples in common storage in an endeavor to get their prices, have begun to sell out, so as to avoid any loss through deterioration. It is likely the large quantity in common storage will necessitate a liberal movement to market in the early winter months. Late storage holdings will be light in Michigan.

"Onions:- Demand has continued light, with the market rather dull and a trifle easier. One large firm was reported as buying a block of the small onions for export. Shipments are very much less than those of a year ago, - in fact, only 40% of the output to mid-November last season.

"Potatoes:- The demand for potatoes has been fair all week, shippers reporting that they could have consummated a volume of business at present price levels if they had had the potatoes, but farmers have been selling very reluctantly. As a result, shippers are now fairly well cleaned up. Today, one of the old-line potato houses reported a boost in their price to farmers to 30¢-35¢ per cwt., a nickel increase over their previous price."

4b. SLIGHTLY HIGHER PRICES FOR IDAHO POTATOES

R. G. Risser submitted the following report of November 13 from the Idaho Falls office:-

"With the completion of digging in most Idaho shipping districts, the advent of cooler weather, and a decrease in the national daily potato movement, there has been a very noticeable improvement in the feeling here. Growers have shown an inclination to hold for higher prices, which has reduced the current offerings and made it more difficult for shippers to secure supplies with which to fill their orders.

"The price situation can best be shown by a comparison with past seasons. The average bulk price to growers this year to date on U.S. No. 1 Russets has been about 40¢ per cwt. The average price for the season as a whole last year was 74¢, and the average for the previous 10 seasons was $1.23½.

"The November estimate of the Idaho crop showed an increase over the October estimate but less than the bumper crop of 1930. The volume which will be shipped from storage will be governed largely by the ability to market U.S. No. 2's at a satisfactory price."

5b. WESTERN NEW YORK CROP NEWS

The following report of November 17 came from R. L. Sutton, at Rochester:-

"Since our last review written November 10 on the marketing situation in western New York, the dominant thing has been the movement of cabbage from the fields. Last week 725 cars of this commodity were started to market. This active movement has been occasioned by the desire of the growers and shippers to clean up the stock remaining in the fields, before the advent of severe weather. Some cabbage, of course, is going into storage but only the most desirable quality is being used for this purpose. With the winding up of the Wisconsin crop, the middle-western and Mississippi Valley points are offering more opportunity for distribution of New York shipments. The f.o.b. market strengthened during the latter part of the week. Prices to growers changed to mostly $7 per ton, with a little business being reported high as $8.

"Although the cold-storage holdings of celery have shown a moderate decrease, the demand is slow and the market disappointingly dull. California has been rolling large numbers of cars during recent days, many of which no doubt will be used in eastern markets to supply the Thanksgiving holiday demands. Cold-storage holdings in western New York on November 13 were 468,144 crates. This is a reduction of approximately 155 cars from the previous week's supplies.

"Potato prices have declined slightly. The advance to 30¢ per bushel to growers was sustained throughout most of last week, although indications yesterday pointed to a general return to the 25¢ figure. The inquiry is light and trading generally slow.

"Apple and onion business has shown little of interest to report. Carrot shipments increased somewhat last week."

6b. TEXAS CITRUS AND VEGETABLES MOVING ACTIVELY

W. D. Googe reported as follows in a letter of November 15 from the Brownsville office:-

"Shipments of citrus fruits from the lower Rio Grande Valley during the past week totaled 175 carloads, and about a fourth of that volume moved by motor trucks. Practically all the movement is grapefruit, it being estimated that not more than 2% of the total is oranges, tangerines, etc. Quality of the grapefruit is showing marked improvement; also a larger percentage of 80's and better sizes is now obtainable. However, small-sized fruit this season will materially reduce the number of cars which might have been shipped in normal years.

"In addition to the citrus shipments, about 65 cars of vegetables were moved. Vegetable movement is expected to continue in increasing volume from this time forward. Dry weather in the non-irrigated sections of Texas has made brighter the outlook for Valley growers, and some are predicting a fairly profitable season in spite of the much-discussed depression. Cabbage in the Corpus Christi section and spinach in the Winter Garden district are reported to be in a bad way, as a result of insufficient rainfall."

LETTUCE ACREAGE in four early shipping States may show a decrease of about one-fifth from last season's acreage. Arizona reports 13,000 acres, or 28% less than last winter, while Imperial Valley, with 33,500 acres, has 18% less than for the 1930-31 season. Florida and Texas show slight decreases.

7o. NORTHWESTERN APPLE AND PEAR STORAGE HOLDINGS AND SHIPMENTS

Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, sent the following information. Attention is called to the fact that these figures must not be quoted by anyone on the basis of varieties. Only the totals are public information.

Yakima District Storage Holdings, November 1:

APPLES	COLD STORAGE (boxes)	COMMON STORAGE (boxes)
Winesaps	2,075,383	892,338
Jonathans	676,315	2,991
Romes	749,552	167,710
Delicious	534,024	27,376
Yellow Newtowns	163,445	13,694
Spitzenburgs	37,062	25,201
Arkansas Blacks	103,147	7,301
Staymans	52,173	5,881
Black Twigs	10,005	3,186
W. W. Pearmains	8,360	1,023
Black Bens and Ganoes	1,459	434
Miscellaneous	20,250	10,015
Total	4,431.175	1,157,150

PEARS	
Nelis	212,301
D'Anjous	75,450
Boscs	8,512
Miscellaneous	5,123
Total	304,886

The above holdings are all on which reports were received. Probably 600,000 to 700,000 boxes of apples and about 3,000 boxes of pears were still in hands of shippers and growers, but not reported.

Wenatchee storage holdings are not shown in this report, above.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS BY VARIETIES - WENATCHEE DISTRICT

APPLES	To Nov. 5, 1931	To Nov. 6, 1930
Delicious	2,720	3,782
Jonathans	1,922	2,863
Winter Bananas	268	394
King Davids	37	84
Mixed	658	932
Crab Apples	6	7
Cox Orange Pippins	6	6
Grimes Golden	13	39
McIntosh Reds	2	4
Rome Beautys	617	845
Spitzenburgs	322	810
Yellow Newtowns	18	35
W. W. Pearmains	30	83
Winesaps	1,005	1,645
Golden Delicious	4	3
Staymans	508	510
Black Bens	5	24

(continued on next page)

CARLOT SHIPMENTS BY VARIETIES - WENATCHEE DISTRICT (CONT'D)

APPLES	To Nov. 5, 1931	To Nov. 6, 1930
Arkansas Blacks	6	17
Ortleys	0	2
Black Twigs	0	1
Total	8,147*	12,086
PEARS		
Bartletts	731	841
Flemish Beautys	83	92
D 'Anjous	306	258
Mixed	43	24
Clapp Favorites	0	1
Boscs	37	13
Winter Nelis	21	8
Keiffers	0	1
Clairgeaus	0	1
Comice	1	0
Total	1,222	1,239

*Incomplete, some districts not having sent in their report. Cannery shipments deducted.

The following figures do not agree fully with those in the preceding table but are approximate:

COMPARISON OF SHIPMENTS TO DATE FOR FIVE YEARS

	June 26 to November 5				
	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
YAKIMA:					
Apples	3,680	6,307	3,805	5,752	2,785
Pears	1,260	3,491	2,384	3,578	2,665
WENATCHEE:					
Apples	8,747	11,824	9,828	13,231	9,167
Pears	670	1,157	750	1,232	1,191

A later report, received from Mrs. Gerry just before this D. L. went to press, shows a total of 8,630 cars of apples shipped from the Wenatchee district by November 12, compared with 13,107 cars to November 13, 1930.

Mrs. Gerry's later letter included the following detailed report on apple holdings, November 1, in the Northwest. Information for the Spokane district was not available at the time of this report:

	COLD STORAGE (boxes)	COMMON STORAGE (boxes)
Yakima	4,431,175	1,157,150*
Wenatchee	4,212,289	1,854,460#
Medford	83,160	- -
Milton-Freewater	238,140	9,072
Hood River	359,100	37,800

*Estimate 600,000-700,000 still in the hands of shippers and growers, not included in this report.

#Apples on ranches not included; 14 reports received show ranch holdings totaling 236,507 packed and 4 reports only show 46,700 boxes loose.

8b. MAINE POTATO CROP BREAKS RECORD

The following information in a letter of November 14 was received from V. H. Nicholson, at Presque Isle:-

"The November estimate of the Maine potato crop was 50,750,000 bushels, exceeding the 1929 crop by about one-half million bushels, or the largest on record. While production is estimated to be 10% greater than last season, shipments have been running about 4,500 cars behind the movement to the same date last season.

"During the past 10 years, Maine has shipped an average of 64% of the total potato crop. On the basis of this average, shipments should exceed 54,000 cars this season. However, most factors seem to think that shipments will be between 45,000 and 50,000 cars, and there are a few who believe that movement may be between 40,000 and 45,000, or about the same as in 1928. Maine has many more potatoes than in the fall of 1928, but it is quite probable that a larger percentage of the stock will not be moved this season.

"The temperature has dropped to around 22 degrees several times, but no damage has been reported. The street price declined slightly this week, and haulings to the shippers' warehouses have been very light. Growers are very reluctant to sell their stock at 50¢ per barrel, as they feel that the market will improve around the first of the year.

"Demand for carlots has been very light. Shipments by boat out of Searsport have been largely supplying some of the markets along the coast. Some of these boat shipments have been consigned."

9b. SHENANDOAH-CUMBERLAND-POTOMAC APPLE MARKET DRAGGY

R. M. Peterson, in charge of the Martinsburg office, sent the following report under date of November 18:-

"The demand for apples in the Shenandoah-Cumberland-Potomac district was generally slow during the past week and the market rather unsettled. Some shippers were holding for higher prices, while others, who preferred to sell rather than place their stock in cold storage, accepted offers below the general quotations. Practically all apples have been picked, but there is a considerable quantity still unpacked. This unpacked stock is partly due to the fact that some growers stopped packing in order to place all available hands in the orchards, and partly due to the desire to withhold packing until the stock is sold, thereby enabling growers to size and grade in accordance with the demands of buyers. A better demand, resulting in a generally higher price level for common-storage stock, is usually anticipated at this time of the year when supplies normally do not take care of the demand without drawing on the cold-storage stock. The warm weather, however, has made it difficult to hold common-storage stock this season, and has also tended to reduce consumption. As a result, the owners of these apples have been placed in a rather weak position.

"The supply of Staymans is getting low and slightly better prices were obtained during the past few days. Black Twigs, however, have not been in as great demand as was expected. The South, a good Black Twig outlet, is showing little interest. The domestic demand for Yorks has been very slow, but export sizes have moved fairly well. Considerable bulk stock has been shipped to the markets and has had its usual effect on the demand for package goods. France, usually a good market for Black Twigs, is seemingly well supplied."

10b. RELATIVELY HEAVY CROP OF LOUISIANA ORANGES

John W. Coleman sent the following report from New Orleans in a letter dated November 17:-

"Recent estimates indicate that Louisiana probably will ship about 350 cars of oranges this season. This would be twice as many as last season. Growers have been holding back shipments until the fruit develops more color and improves in general quality. There will be enough shallots to supply northern and eastern markets, but the quality of present offerings is only fair. Plantings of spring crop shallots are looking good. Shipments of mixed cars are likely to be light this winter, because growers have nothing to ship in cars with shallots. Sweet potatoes are plentiful and movement from Louisiana is ranging from 4 to 10 cars daily. Homegrown peppers, eggplant and squash have about cleaned up and Texas offerings of these commodities are appearing on the New Orleans market. Louisiana second-crop Bliss Triumph potatoes are selling very slowly on the local market, due to poor quality."

11b. CLEVELAND POTATO SUPPLIES COMING LARGELY BY TRUCK

A. B. Farlinger, of the Cleveland office, sent the following news in letters dated November 17:-

"Probably you have noticed during the past few weeks that our track holdings of potatoes have been running unusually light,- around 10 to 15 cars. However, supplies have been sufficient at all times to meet the local demand. This is due to truck receipts of potatoes from New York and Pennsylvania, as well as from nearby producing sections in Ohio. These receipts have shown a large increase over previous years, and on some days amount to the equivalent of 10 or 15 carloads.

"Practically all potatoes arriving by truck are packed one bushel to the sack. The quality has been running very good.

"I notice that our carlot receipts from New York and Pennsylvania are approximately 40% less than they were for the corresponding period a year ago. A large part of this loss is made up by the increase in truck receipts from those States during the present year.

"Many growers from both New York and Pennsylvania are seen on the local market, selling their own produce. Truck receipts are becoming more and more of a factor and are affecting the supply and price trend on many commodities.

"Due to the unseasonably warm weather which this section has enjoyed, local farmers continue to bring into the market such commodities as peppers, mustard greens, spinach, bunched beets, carrots and turnips in sufficient quantities to supply the demand. No general killing frost has occurred throughout this section to date.

"It may be of interest to know that very good quality peppers of medium size are moving slowly at 20¢-30¢ per half-bushel basket."

WENDELL CALHOUN,
Marketing Specialist

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 2	Oct. 27*
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches*	Sept. 10	Oct.3*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Nov. 7*
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	J. B. Owens	Apples	Sept. 15	Dec. 12
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar. 1
			Vegetables	Jan. 1	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P.O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Koller	Apples	Oct. 30	Nov. 25
			Onions	Oct. 30	Apr. 2
			Potatoes	Oct. 30	May 14
The following station probably will open on date indicated:					
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Dec. 1	Jan. 9

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
R. M. Peterson on leave
H. E. Rutland at Williston, Fla.
A. E. Prugh on leave at Los Angeles until about November 28.

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in this table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. DUTY OF APPLICANT TO MAKE LOAD ACCESSIBLE

The Rules and Regulasions of the Inspection Service provide that the applicant shall cause the product for which inspection is requested to be made accessible for inspection and to be so placed as to disclose its quality and condition. Attempts have been made to inspect cars which were difficult for the inspector to enter on account of heavy load. In such cases, the inspector should inform the applicant of the advisability of sending a truck to the car and removing a sufficient number of packages from the doorway to make the load accessible for a thorough inspection. In no case should a certificate be issued, covering an inspection of only those packages which the inspector can examine from the doorway on one side of the car. Such inspections are of little or no value, and when the upper layer or two of packages or all those between doors are not accessible, the application for inspection should be declined.

2c. FUSARIUM TUBER ROT - WET OR DRY?

The question has arisen as to when Fusarium Tuber Rot of potatoes shall be considered a wet or soft rot and when a dry rot. Soft rot as defined in the U.S. potato grades includes wet Fusarium and it is necessary for the inspector to differentiate between the two types of this rot, because there are different tolerances for each type.

Some inspectors seem to have adopted the policy of treating a moist condition of the decayedtissues as wet Fusarium, which is not correct. Soft rot or wet rot is more objectionable than dry rot because it affects adjacent potatoes and often spots the sacks. In order to promote uniformity in the inspection work, it has been decided that Fusarium is not to be classed as a wet rot, unless it is wet enough to spot the sacks or exude enough moisture to wet adjacent potatoes. Moist Fusarium which does not spot the sacks or wet adjacent potatoes shall be classed as a dry rot.

3c. REVISED F.P.I. - 8 LIST OF OFFICES

With this D. L., each receiving-point inspection office will receive at least 10 copies of the revised F.P.I. -8 list. Inspectors in charge are requested to correct any copies of former lists, so that they will agree with this latest revision. The list includes 49 city inspection offices.

4c. BULLETIN ON MECHANICAL INJURIES TO POTATOES

Each city inspection office will receive with this D. L. a copy of the Nebraska Experiment Station Bulletin No. 260 on "The Cause and Prevention of Mechanical Injuries to Potatoes." The author is H. O. Werner, of the Department of Horticulture, at Lincoln. Any other inspectors desiring copies of this publication can doubtless obtain some directly from the Experiment Station.

5c. ARIZONA LETTUCE INSPECTIONS

Reports on shipping-point inspections of Arizona lettuce can be had from E. L. Ruch, in charge of that work, at Room 610 Security Bldg., Phoenix.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING OCTOBER, 1931.

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total Fees
Atlanta	61	52	2	0	$ 246.20
Baltimore	33	32	0	0	132.50
Boston	147	169	10	2	598.52
Buffalo	18	19	12	0	54.50
Charleston	1	-	0	0	4.00
Chicago	309	354	4	1	1,285.13
Cincinnati	54	91	0	0	229.42
Cleveland	16	23	0	0	91.25
Columbus	22	42	1	0	92.00
Dallas	15	-	1	0	59.00
Denver	18	32	0	0	71.50
Des Moines	29	-	0	0	116.55
Detroit	46	103	0	0	170.50
Fort Worth	8	30	0	0	112.50
Harrisburg	11	1	0	0	46.00
Houston	32	64	1	0	148.88
Indianapolis	22	30	1	0	103.29
Jacksonville	30	65	0	0	184.39
Kansas City	63	75	2	0	253.20
Los Angeles	20	28	0	0	92.50
Louisville	9	-	0	0	49.85
Memphis	35	35	15	0	149.00
Milwaukee	120	66	2	0	457.50
Minneapolis	23	30	0	0	86.00
Newark	59	84	0	0	252.10
New Haven	61	62	5	0	299.97
New Orleans	157	197	19	0	291.30
New York	605	1,670	37	1	3,390.24
Norfolk	18	22	0	1	84.37
Omaha	13	22	1	0	69.91
Philadelphia	277	276	10	0	495.67
Pittsburgh	93	177	10	0	385.02
Portland	3	6	0	0	20.00
Providence	33	30	0	0	129.00
Rochester	4	5	0	0	17.00
Sacramento	1	0	0	0	4.00
St. Louis	69	102	3	0	269.50
Salt Lake City	59	2	0	0	234.50
San Diego	0	2	0	0	00
San Francisco	6	4	0	0	125.30
San Juan, P. R.	1	-	0	0	2.50
Scranton	4	-	0	0	16.00
Seattle	3	1	0	0	75.00
Springfield	30	43	10	0	151.13
Toledo	-	24	-	-	-
Trenton	0	4	0	0	00
Tulsa	4	-	0	0	98.22
Washington	39	68	0	0	245.00
Wilkes-Barre	2	8	0	0	8.00
Total	2,683	4,150	146	4	$11,497.91

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:-Total 1,420; 1,038 Nickel Plate, 53 B.& O., 27 Erie, 210 Pennsylvania, 37 Kroger Grocery & Baking Company.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING October, 1931

ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS

Symbols:- N- NAVY M- MARINE CORPS

STATIONS	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED N	M	Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED N	M	TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED N	M	"Cuts" made to comply with specifications N	M	Items Billed Short-weight N	M
Charleston	332185	0	5585	0	337770	0	48	0	0	0
Great Lakes	152862	0	1180	0	154042	0	0	0	0	0
New York	183745	47295	20940	135	204685	47430	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	237058	0	74326	0	311384	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	218125	23631	13950	1137	232075	24768	1062	155	0	0
San Diego	803069	64748	3902	665	806971	65413	1659	504	0	0
San Francisco	563209	52400	65000	450	628209	52850	0	0	0	0
San Pedro	927889	0	9242	0	937131	0	0	0	0	0
Vallejo	166383	33324	13073	0	179456	33324	0	0	0	0
Washington	16937	0	0	0	16937	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3601462	221398	207198	2387	3808660	223785	2769	659	0	0

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U.S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL

Chicago	83465	99745	183210	0	0
Great Lakes	64670	11050	75720	0	0
Milwaukee	59630	7930	67560	0	0
New York	125024	15461	140485	0	0
Philadelphia	27671	11800	39471	0	0
St. Louis	30920	0	30920	0	0
TOTALS	391380	145986	537366	0	0

The New York office also inspected the following:

	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	28617	76910	2185
Munson S. S. Line	12886	40671	2490
Dollar Line.....	22635	49532	916
American France Line.....	4783	22279	220
American Diamond Line	5396	24577	830
Columbian Line	1165	4575	0
American Brazil Line.....	40	180	0
	75522	218724	6641

The San Pedro office also inspected 12,098 lbs. bread and 8,550 lbs. butter for the Navy: The Vallejo office inspected 22,500 lbs. bread and 280 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U.S. SHIPPING BOARD

New York	6448	1045	7493	0	0
Norfolk	8070	860	8930	0	0
Totals	14518	1905	16423	0	0

6c. A NEW SERVICE IN BOSTON

Preliminary arrangements have been made with the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad at Boston to provide a special inspection service on fruits and vegetables between the hours of 12 midnight and 8 a.m. It is expected that the special service will start on Monday, November 23, and Bolling Hall, of the New York City staff, will go to Boston to assist in inaugurating this work. The members of the Boston inspection force will take turns at handling this night work. The railroad has guaranteed a minimum of four cars per day for inspection, and it is quite probable that the total number inspected will average higher than four cars daily. The service will be on an experimental basis for four months.

7c. A NEW RECORD ESTABLISHED AT PENNSYLVANIA SHIPPING POINTS

The following news item was received from D. M. James, Supervising Inspector at Harrisburg, Pa.:-

"Shipping-point inspectors, employed jointly by the United States and Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture, classified 2,015 carloads of fruit in Pennsylvania during October, thus setting a new high record. The previous high total was 1,577 cars, inspected during October, 1930.

"Practically all carloads and many truckloads of grapes shipped from Erie County were inspected, there being 1,042 grape certificates of grade issued during the month. About 970 certificates were issued on apple shipments for export, for domestic trade, or into cold storage."

8c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Mackay & Lehman,	Weslaco, Texas (checks returned)	$12.00
Trulyn Shippers, Inc.,	Weslaco, Texas	$5.00
J. E. Durbin & Co.,	Indianapolis, Ind.	$4.00

The following should be taken from List of Past-Due Accounts:

Agricultural Exchange,	Pittsburgh, Pa.	$1.00

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

DO YOU KNOW?

There is a very good article, under the heading of "Do You Know?" at the bottom of page 4 of The B.A.E. News for November 17, 1931. If you have not seen it, you should get a copy and read it. The article relates to different types of workers and is quoted from a statement by Herbert D. Brown, Chief of the U.S. Bureau of Efficiency.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. DECISION RENDERED IN ANOTHER CASE UNDER THE P.A.C. ACT

The Secretary of Agriculture has issued an order in the sum of $579 in favor of the complainant in a case brought under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act by Baker Bros., of Woodside, Delaware, against Mersel & Fortgang, of 191 Duane St., New York, N. Y.

In September, 1930, Baker Bros. sold Mersel & Fortgang one carload of King David apples for export and two truckloads of Winesap apples. Mersel & Fortgang received and paid for the King David apples but the steamship company refused to receive them on the ground that they were not suitable for export. They thereupon refused to pay Baker Bros. for the two truckloads of Winesap apples. Baker Bros. thereupon complained against Mersel & Fortgang on the ground of failure truly and correctly to account.

Mersel & Fortgang admitted the purchase, acceptance, and failure to pay for the apples received by truck, but moved that the case be dismissed on the ground that there had been no compliance with the Statute of Frauds, that they had been ready and willing at all times to account, and that the facts submitted in the case justified dismissal. The Secretary declined to grant this motion on the ground that the car was accepted by Mersel & Fortgang, that the law requires prompt payment for goods purchased, and that something more than a willing disposition to pay on the part of a dealer is required; and that the facts in the case show that the carload of King David apples met the contract specifications at the time of their delivery to Mersel & Fortgang, f.o.b. shipping point.

The King David apples were sold on September 20, 1930, at an agreed price of $3.65 per barrel, f.o.b. Wyoming, Delaware. It was understood by both parties that the apples were to be exported. The broker's memorandum of sale provided in part that the shipper was to furnish Government inspection certificate, showing that the fruit met requirements as to grade, size and U.S. standard condition for export. Baker Bros. shipped the car on September 22, and it was received by Mersel & Fortgang on September 23. The car was inspected, prior to shipment, by an inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, who certified that the apples met U.S. standards for export. After arrival in New York, the apples were taken possession of and accepted by Mersel & Fortgang on September 24; the next day they were transported by lighter to the steamer for export. On September 26 they were refused by the steamship company as not being in suitable condition for export. They were then placed in storage by Mersel & Fortgang and were again inspected by Government inspector on September 29.

The two truckloads of Winesap apples were sold by Baker Bros. on September 25 and were delivered to Mersel & Fortgang at an agreed price of $579. Payment of this amount has been withheld by Mersel & Fortgang because of their claim that Baker Bros. failed to comply with their contract regarding the carload of King David apples in that the apples did not meet the U.S. standards for export.

Mersel & Fortgang's counter claim was based on the contention that Baker Bros. failed to comply with their contract in connection with the carload of King David apples. The former claim that they expected delivery of a carload of apples that would be suitable for export . . . . . and the latter admit that they so understood the contract. The only question to be decided

was whether or not the King David apples sold and delivered by Baker Bros. were fit for export.

The parties themselves by express agreement set out the essentials that they recognized sufficient to constitute good delivery under the contract of sale. The confirmation shows the apples to have been bought f.o.b. shipping point and provides in part: "shipper to furnish Government inspection certificate showing fruit meets requirements as to grade, size and U.S. standard condition for export." Such a certificate was furnished by Baker Bros., the certificate stating that the apples showed less than 1% decay, that they met the requirements of U.S. No. 1 Grade, and that they met the U.S. standards for export. Since the sale was made on an f.o.b. shipping-point basis and since the complainant furnished apples which the shipping-point inspection certificate showed as meeting U.S. standards for export and the parties having contracted that apples so certified would be good delivery, an award of damages in Mersel & Fortgang's favor would seem to be impossible.

Mersel & Fortgang contend, however, that the shipping-point inspection was, in effect, reversed by a second inspection made in New York on September 29, which showed that the stock did not meet U.S. standards for export because of maturity, decay and breakdown. The regulations governing the Farm Products Inspection certificates provide for an appeal inspection, but such an inspection is for the purpose of determining the quality and condition of commodity at the time of the original inspection. The regulations further provide that inspections requested to determine factors of condition or quality, which may have undergone material change since the original inspection, shall not be considered appeal inspections within the meaning of this regulation. It is also provided that, after an appeal inspection has been made, a certificate designated "appeal inspection certificate" shall be signed and issued, referring specifically to the original certificate. This second inspection, therefore, did not reverse the original inspection as to quality, condition and grade of the apples at shipping point.

The Secretary concluded that Mersel & Fortgang's failure to pay the purchase price of Winesap apples shipped by truck constituted a failure truly and correctly to account, in violation of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act; that Baker Brothers should be awarded damages in the sum of $579, and that Mersel & Fortgang's counter claim should be dismissed. The Secretary, therefore, ordered that Mersel & Fortgang should pay Baker Brothers the sum of $579 on or before November 15, 1931, and that the facts in the matter should be published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

2e. ANOTHER P.A.C. CASE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF LACK OF JURISDICTION

The Secretary of Agriculture has issued an order dismissing the complaint brought under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act by Elmer G. Porter, of Caywood, N. Y., against Paul Rothman, Inc., of Newark, N. J.

Porter sold Rothman two cars of U.S. No. 1 Concord juice grapes. Upon arrival, Rothman asked for an allowance, which was refused. After considerable discussion, Porter agreed to reduce the draft on the two cars $70 and Rothman made payment on this basis. Porter claimed that he agreed to this reduction under protest, with the understanding that the matter would be referred to the Secretary of Agriculture, both parties to abide by the ruling of the Secretary. Rothman denied that this was the case and stated that he understood the allowance to be final.

In his decision the Secretary says that, since the grapes were sold f.o.b shipping point,- if they complied with the contract, delivery to the carrier operated to pass title from the seller to the buyer and, upon Rothman's refusal to accept, Porter could have stood upon his rights and refused to take possession thereof and could have asked for an award of damages for the full sales price; or Porter could have resold the grapes for the account of all concerned and have asked for an award of damages for the difference between the original sales price and the amount realized upon such resale. Porter pursued neither of these remedies but accepted a lesser amount than the sales price.

The Secretary holds that there is no express authorization in the Act for accepting payment under protest of a lesser amount than that agreed upon and continuing the controversy as a claimed violation of the Act. He deems it doubtful whether the parties can agree to the submission of such a question in a manner not specifically authorized by the Act. Even if jurisdiction could be acquired by virtue of such an agreement, the agreement would have to be definite, complete, and acknowledged by both parties as their voluntary understanding. Rothman denies that he entered into any such agreement, and the Secretary therefore feels that he is without jurisdiction and he consequently dismissed the case.

3e. A FLORIDA CASE UNDER THE PRODUCE AGENCY ACT

A Produce Agency case is scheduled for trial in the District Court at Tampa, Florida, on November 30. The defendant is F. F. Dutton, who is accused of false accounting in dealings with growers at Sanford, Florida. W. L. Evans, of the Regulatory Branch, will arrive at Tampa about November 27, to help the Assistant U.S. Attorney in preparing this case for trial. J. B. Horigan, of the Solicitor's Office, will also go to Tampa next week to assist in this case. Before returning to Washington, Mr. Evans will make investigations in other Produce Agency cases in Florida and at Charleston, S. C.

H. A. SPILMAN,
Senior Marketing Specialist

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman has been performing duty on the jury in criminal court of Fairfax County, Virginia, part of the time this week.

Sympathy is extended to O. N. Harsha, of the Regulatory Branch, in the death of his mother last Saturday. He has been on leave at Vincennes, Ind.,- his mother's home,- all of this week.

Robert G. Hill returned to Washington last Saturday, after having made investigations in the field, preparatory to the issuance of grades for cleaned and shelled Virginia-type peanuts.

J. Wm. Park, of the Standardization and Research Project, will be back at his desk by Monday, after having attended the Southern Outlook Conference and having studied the use of the grades for unshelled pecans throughout the South.

Wm. E. Leigh is spending this week on vacation in southern Virginia. He is doing a little hunting, while on this trip.

(over)

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):

Herbert Graff, local inspector, was in Roanoke, Va., on Thursday, making an appeal inspection of a car of California celery.

J. G. Cross, of the Transportation Unit, plans to return to Washington by Monday, after his five-weeks' trip throughout the South and the Middle West, in the interest of reports from common carriers.

E. P. Bostwick, in charge of the Chicago office of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Service, is at Indianapolis today, attending a meeting of the Indiana Canners' Association and demonstrating the grades for canned products, particularly tomatoes, corn and peas.

E. E. Conklin, Jr., of the Chicago inspection office, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Kansas City and Thursday and Friday in St. Louis, conferring with inspectors in those markets. He returns to Chicago Saturday.

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Jay W. Raplee, of the Buffalo office, in the death of her father on Wednesday. She is on leave for several days and Mr. Raplee also will be on leave this Saturday to attend the funeral.

R. M. Peterson, who has been operating the market-news office at Martinsburg, W. Va., will leave there early next week. He will take a few days' vacation in Illinois, and then proceed to Minneapolis where he will take the remainder of his annual leave and also substitute for L. C. Tate, while the latter is on vacation.

J. B. Owens has gone from Chicago to Martinsburg, W. Va., to take over the apple market reporting work until the close of that office in December. Mr. Owens underwent a tonsilar operation in Chicago last week.

J. J. Gardner, who has been supervising apple inspection work in West Virginia, probably will not leave Martinsburg until the end of next week and will not return to duty in the Pittsburgh office until December 1.

Among visitors to the Washington office this week was K. W. Schaible, formerly an inspector in Chicago and New York City. He resigned from the service in 1928.

F. C. Turner has taken over the cooperative market reporting work in North Dakota, formerly handled by O.M. Fuller, at Fargo. In addition to radio broadcasting, Mr. Turner issues a weekly market summary to 7,000 persons on his mailing list.

A.E. Prugh, who is on leave at Los Angeles, probably will open the Phoenix, Arizona, field station about December 1 for the winter lettuce season.

NO DIVISION LETTER WILL BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK, on account of Thanksgiving Day, November 26, being a holiday in all offices. Next issue will be Dec. 4.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 47 December 4, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. SAMPLING AND INSPECTION OF CANNED GOODS

The various inspection and grading offices will be called upon from time to time either to draw samples or to grade samples of merchandise submitted for delivery to other Government departments. In some instances, travel will be involved and expenses will be incurred which are properly chargeable to the Government departments requesting the service. It frequently becomes necessary for the office performing the service to telegraph or telephone Washington or outside parties in connection with this work. All items of expense should be carefully noted and submitted immediately upon completion of the work in a separate statement, covering each request for grading. When wires are filed to Washington, for instance, Government rate collect, the amount of the wire should be ascertained and included in the item of expense in connection with this inspection. Otherwise, owing to the method in which the departments are billed by the telegraph and telephone companies, some of these items are likely to be overlooked. By submitting a separate account, the possibility of such omissions will be avoided. Upon completion of the work, this statement should be immediately forwarded to Paul M. Williams, of the Washington office.

**(continued on next page) - WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. LOW TEMPERATURES ALONG PACIFIC COAST

The following information was received from the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices on Tuesday, November 24, and was sent to all offices on the leased wire:-

"Heavy frost in California Sunday and Monday nights (Nov. 22 and 23) severely damaged tender vegetables, such as tomatoes, beans, eggplant, artichokes, etc. Only few sheltered areas close to coast escaped. Lettuce and peas in San Joaquin Valley and peas in Imperial Valley reported to be severly damaged and also probably considerable injury to San Fernando Valley lettuce. All citrus areas smudged heavily and practically no damage expected in southern California. Porterville reported temperature of 22 degrees and Lindsay 23. Extent of citrus damage in those areas undetermined but expected to be light, account heavy smudging."

The following additional report came from San Francisco on Wednesday, November 25, and was sent over the leased wire two days later:-

"Freezing damage to celery in delta area of California estimated from 25% in light peat soil to as high as 50% in heavier soil. Damage apparently occurs only in outside branches, with hearts not affected. Early estimates indicate that crop as a whole in delta area will be curtailed about 15%. Unofficial temperatures 20 to 22 degrees."

3a. NOTICE TO BRANCH OFFICES THAT SUBMIT PAY ROLLS

It appears that recent instructions regarding the submission of pay rolls are not fully understood. Initials of the officer in charge should appear to the left of the line designated for signature, but both the signature and title lines should be left blank, as all vouchers are signed in the Washington office.

4a. A VALUABLE REPORT ON ORANGES

The Foreign Agricultural Service Division has issued a 12-paged mimeographed report on the "Significance of the Canadian Tariff on Oranges." It is designated as Report F.S.: CF-78 and is dated November 27. Two sets of graphs or charts accompany the report, and all of the material is of real interest to those who follow the orange markets. Copies are available directly from the Foreign Agricultural Service Division in this Bureau. The tariff, mentioned in the report, was authorized in June, 1931.

5a. CALIFORNIA STORAGE HOLDINGS IN MID-NOVEMBER

Summary of cold-storage and dry-storage holdings of apples, onions, potatoes, and pears in California on November 15, with comparative figures for two weeks previous and one year ago, was published by the San Francisco office as follows:-

TOTAL COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS

Commodity		Nov. 15, 1931	Oct. 30, 1931	Nov. 15, 1930
Apples	(Boxes)	2,031,443	2,055,409	3,109,985
Onions	(Sacks)	189,821	170,004	138,073
Potatoes	(Sacks)	30,834	22,064	150,614
Pears	(Boxes and lugs)	404,782	500,818	577,897
TOTAL PUBLIC WAREHOUSE (Dry Storage) HOLDINGS				
Onions	(Sacks)	35,847	49,417	89,662
Potatoes	(Sacks)	3,398	2,511	15,412

6a. FERRIAGE IN MILEAGE-BASIS AUTO TRAVEL

The Comptroller General recently rendered a negative decision in the request of a Government official for reimbursement of $4.60 ferriage charges from Cape Charles to Portsmouth, while traveling by automobile for his Department. However, the decision goes on to say: "When using a privately-owned automobile upon a mileage basis, the employee is entitled to mileage for the entire distance traveled, if accompanied by his automobile, whether the automobile travels under its own power or some other means." Applying the 7-cent rate to the ferry distance of 38 miles, the official was allowed $2.66 for the Cape Charles-Portsmouth portion of his trip.

IMPORTANT ADDITION TO PARAGRAPH 1-a

Stencils for this Division Letter were cut at different times. After the first page had been stenciled, the following addition was made to Par. 1-a:

**Shipments of samples of canned goods to Washington should be made on Government bill of lading and the charge for transportation ascertained and included in the above statement (mentioned in Par. 1-a),- also the bill of lading number.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. HEAVY RECEIPTS IN NEW YORK; A CAR OF CORN FROM FLORIDA

E. R. Biddle sent the following interesting item from New York City on Monday, November 23:-

"After writing today's markets, the thought struck me that, possibly with one or two minor exceptions, every vegetable was represented. We quoted prices on 42 vegetables, all stock being grown in the United States. Our wires today covered 27 commodities, not including auctions on grapes, grapefruit and pears, and special railroad reports.

"Of particular interest this morning was a car of Florida corn, which sold mostly at $3-$3.25 per crate. Our records show that this is the first time a straight carload of corn from any State arrived on this market at this time of the year. Another item of interest is the supply of asparagus for this season of the year. Although just limited quantities have been coming in, yet the market has been able to dispose of a car a day, in addition to a supply arriving from Argentine.

"We show 1,125 cars of all products as having arrived and been unloaded for today's market."

2b. THE ST. LOUIS APPLE MARKET

M. M. Thomas included the following comments in a letter of November 20 from St. Louis:-

"The Calhoun County (Illinois) apple harvest is practically at an end. Truck receipts in St. Louis are decreasing every day and will be only slightly greater than those of last year. Most of the arrivals by truck are of fair to ordinary quality and sell at 40¢-75¢ per basket. Very few western apples are being sold in St. Louis this year and, until Illinois fruit is disposed of, western fruit will hardly have a chance."

3b. MAINE POTATO PRICES ADVANCE SLIGHTLY

The following information came in a letter of November 28 from V. H. Nicholson, at Presque Isle:-

"The Maine potato market has shown a tendency to improve slightly during the past few days. Most shippers are expecting the market to continue to strengthen, especially with the advent of colder weather. Because of the large crop in the Northeast this season, however, the prospects of a very material advance appear to be rather uupromising.

"Street prices have firmed slightly, but growers are still getting mostly 50¢ bulk per barrel for U.S. No. 1 stock delivered to shippers' warehouses. Most growers are reluctant to sell at the prevailing prices, and haulings have been very light. The temperature dropped to 10 degrees last night, but no damage is expected.

"Shipments continue about 4,500 cars behind those of last season. Some factors are of the opinion that the increased truck movement and the larger quantity used by the starch factories this season will offset the decrease in rail shipments. The factory in Caribou and the one here in Presque Isle had ground approximately 220 carloads more to November 1

(continued over)

this season than a year ago. There are 13 starch factories operating in Aroostook County, but these two are by far the largest. It is probably a safe estimate that the factories have taken between 750 and 1,000 cars more than to this date last season.

"The movement of certified seed stock to points in Florida amounted to about 80 cars last week, but most of this stock was sold earlier in the season. Demand for Cobblers has been very light, and shipments to Virginia and the Carolinas have been extremely light. Most buyers are holding off, expecting to buy at lower prices."

4b. A STRONGER LOCAL FEELING ON IDAHO POTATOES

R. G. Risser wrote as follows from Idaho Falls in a letter of November 28:-

"With the smallest percentage of U.S. No. 1 Russets on record in Idaho and with an 18% reduction in the western potato crop, as compared with last year, a much stronger sentiment is developing in Idaho shipping districts regarding potato prices, especially on the best stock. Trading on U.S. No.1 Russets around Thanksgiving time was more active, and prices to growers on this grade have advanced 5¢-10¢ per cwt. Growers had shown an increasing disposition to demand higher prices before disposing of their stock and, while this has kept shippers rustling for supplies of acceptable quality on the one hand and endeavoring to get the trade to meet the moderate price advances on the other hand, it has made for a steady to slightly stronger market here. Reports indicate a favorable price outlook in Washington and in Colorado, which lends encouragement to local factors. As an evidence of his confidence in the increasing value of potatoes, a local business man has offered to sell a residence, accepting potatoes in payment on the basis of $1 per cwt. for U.S. No. 1 Russets. This is about twice as much as most of the offerings are now bringing the growers.

"Just what course the market will take is a matter of uncertainty. Slight price advances have had the usual effect of releasing greater supplies and thereby increasing shipments. Shippers have experienced some difficulty in getting buyers to bear the additional cost of heater service, when temperatures seem to require it. Some cars have probably been bought during spells of fairly moderate weather in anticipation of the fact that the extra expense of heater service will be indispensable with the decline of temperatures. Other shipments have been forwarded without this service, when weather was too cold, and they have arrived with potatoes in lower part of cars badly frozen. Recently, a much heavier proportion of Idaho shipments has been passing through Salt Lake, bound for Los Angeles and other southwestern points. This has had a beneficial effect upon eastern markets but a depressing effect on the coast."

4½b. "VACUUM-CLEANED" POTATOES

In the market report for December 3, Boston quoted prices on cleaned Maine Green Mountain potatoes. Upon inquiry as to the meaning of the word "cleaned," Boston office replied; "Maine potatoes quoted are cleaned by a process introduced this year, resembling vacuum cleaning, whereby all dust and dirt is removed from the surface without use of water."

5b. CODE CHANGE, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 11

On the "NU" (Sweet Potato) page of the code, make the following change:

N ~~3~~UH bushel tubs - (instead of 5-peck crates)

6b. TEXAS CITRUS MOVEMENT LIMITED; VEGETABLE OUTPUT INCREASING

W. D. Googe sent the following report from Brownsville, in a letter dated November 29:-

"Citrus shipments from the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas during the week ending November 28 were slightly lighter than during the previous week. This was due partly to Thanksgiving Day, when there was very little activity, and partly to the light rains which prevented pickers from getting into the groves. Considerable improvement was reported in the quality of fruit, practically all of which now meets the Texas maturity tests. Markets were generally lower, especially on small sizes.

"Vegetable shipments from this section showed a decided increase. Beets, tomatoes and cabbage are moving freely in carlots. Prices of cabbage to growers have ranged mostly $15-$17.50 per ton, and cash-track prices for loaded cars have been $20-$22.50 per ton and $1.15-$1.25 per lettuce crate. A fairly good demand has been reported for cars of mixed vegetables, which may contain an assortment of the above-mentioned commodities and carrots, broccoli, new potatoes, snap beans, peas, mustard and turnip greens, parsley, etc. The movement of carrots has been light, on account of dry weather which checked growth in the dry farming areas, and shipments except in mixed cars will be light during December.

"The first cool weather of the season brought fogs, mists, and light rains, which are of material benefit in producing the crops of winter vegetables in the Valley."

A previous letter from Mr. Googe, dated November 21, contained additional information, as follows:-

"The sizes of grapefruit are said to be more satisfactory now, although boxes run heavily to 96's. Considerable interest is shown in shipments of small fruit in bushel tubs. Bitter protest was entered against this type of container in former hearings before the Interstate Commerce Commission, but the tub, ring-packed with good-quality small grapefruit, makes a rather attractive package and has proven to be popular this season when small fruit is abundant. Practically all shipments of grapefruit are now Marsh Seedless. In spite of the small sizes, the fruit is heavy and full of juice, which is a result of recent watering of the groves.

"More than 20 cars of tomatoes were loaded during the week (Nov. 15-21), the quality of which is reported to be unusually good for the fall crop. A light movement of fall potatoes, Bliss Triumphs, is expected to begin during the next few days. No heavy rains have fallen, but numerous showers during the week have revived the plants after a long dry spell. About an inch and a-half of rain fell in the Corpus Christi area last Thursday night, but it came too late to benefit the cabbage crop which is usually ready for market during January and February. Light precipitation was reported in the Winter Garden section and at Laredo."

7b. A NEW "PA-PE" (POTATOES) PAGE OF THE CODE

With this issue of the Division Letter, there are being mailed copies of a new "PA-PE" (Potatoes) code page. There are no changes from the previous page as revised in December, 1930, but a few additions have been made. These include the terms which have been added from time to time during the past year, and also the following new terminals, effective December 11:-

EV Green Mountains, Canada No. 1
EW Russet Burbanks, U.S. No. 1, bakers in
EX Russet Burbanks, U.S. No. 1, bakers out

If any market news office happens to be overlooked in this distribution of the new "PA-PE" page, a copy should be requested from Washington.

8b. PUGET SOUND GREEN-VEGETABLE SEASON ENDED

T. R. Hall, of the Seattle office, included the following information in a market review, released on November 18:-

"The shipping season for Puget Sound green vegetables has practically come to a close, and activities among growers and shippers of western Washington will be at low ebb until after January 1, when the hothouse rhubarb crop will be ready to market. The cauliflower season closed with a good demand for Thanksgiving trade, pony crates generally ranging 60¢-65¢, f.o.b. cash-track. An active inquiry was prevalent for good cabbage but quality of most offerings was only fair. Speculators in celery remembered the bitter losses of last winter, and it is generally believed that less celery is in Seattle storages this year than one year ago. Limited additional supplies will be held for Christmas trading. Bunched beets, carrots and turnips have moved fairly freely in mixed cars.

"Some speculative buying is taking place for Northwestern onions. Oregon stock is meeting an active demand, the mid-November market holding around $1.75-$1.85 per cwt., f.o.b. cash-track, on No. 1 yellow stock. The Yakima Valley crop is also in active demand; practically all of it is in the hands of dealers and the f.o.b. cash market for Valencias, 3 inches and larger, is ruling around $40 sacked per ton, while natural run of sizes range $30-$32 per ton. The f.o.b. potato market is holding the advance made earlier in the current week. Rutabagas continue in moderate demand, but squash is of less interest."

9b. CALIFORNIA CITRUS FRUIT ONLY SLIGHTLY AFFECTED BY COLD WEATHER

A late report, dated November 27, was received through E. E. Kaufman, Agricultural Statistician at Sacramento, as follows:-

"Cold weather has been more severe than usually occurs during November. Nearly all lemon and Valencia orange groves and most navel groves in southern California, if located in known cold areas, are provided with orchard heaters. Central California navels are usually harvested ahead of cold weather and not well supplied with heaters. It seems this area has experienced some loss of navels, although much too early to predict. Probably two-thirds that navel crop already harvested ahead of frost. Now seems improbable that serious loss has occurred in other citrus areas of importance. Unless cold weather continues, the total crop will probably show but slight reduction."

10b. A MINIMUM OF 38 DEGREES BELOW ZERO IN COLORADO

Bryce Morris sent the following letter from Denver on November 28:-

"Extremely low temperatures have prevailed over a considerable portion of Colorado the past week, and all sections experienced real winter. Minimums ranging from 28 to 38 degrees below zero were reported from points in the San Luis Valley, where snow ranged from 15 to 24 inches in depth. Snowfalls in the mountains were reported up to 3 feet. Most of the mountain passes were blocked. On account of the extremely cold weather, there have been very light shipments of potatoes the past week. Prices in general remained steady, although a slight upturn was noticed in northern Colorado on Bliss Triumph potatoes.

"Western Slope onion shipments were much lighter, with prices slightly higher on usual-terms sales. Practically no onions were offered by growers; the dealers loaded a few cars from storage. Western Slope sections report onions holding up well in storage, while in the Arkansas Valley a considerable shrinkage had resulted from the warm weather previous to this week."

A previous letter from Mr. Morris, dated November 21, contained the following information:-

"Onion growers were holding tightly to the few supplies remaining in their hands. Western Slope farmers were receiving $1.90-$2.05 per cwt., according to variety and size of bulk onions, compared with 25¢-30¢ a year ago.

"The past week has witnessed a very light demand for potatoes and a dull market. It now seems doubtful whether Colorado will move more than 7,500 cars this season. Apparently the San Luis Valley will ship very few over 2,000 cars, about one-fifth of last year's movement, while the northern Colorado shipments will probably range between 2,500 and 3,000 cars. Other districts in the State will be about the same as last year."

11b. ACREAGE OF TOMATOES AND PEAS IN MEXICO

M. R. Wells, Associate Crop Estimator at Phoenix, Arizona, recently made a trip to the southern part of that State and obtained the following figures on vegetable plantings in Mexico:-

"Reports from Mexico cover a wide range as to acreage on tomatoes. We secured estimates from 24,000 to 40,000 acres. One estimate was for 38,000 acres. One man seemed to think 28,000 to 30,000 would cover it. Production estimates are generally for about the same number of cars as last season. One report is 4,000 to 6,000 cars.

"The Mexican pea acreage runs from 6,000 to 8,000 acres, likely around 7,000. Early plantings are said to have been hard hit by continued hot weather. While the movement of shelled peas this season may be expected to exceed that of last winter, it is doubtful if the increase will be material. It is believed that some missionary work is needed at the consuming end, particularly among hotel and large restaurant owners.

"About two or three years ago, some peas were shelled and graded by hand. Last season and the year before, some grading by mechanical means was done. Small lots of shelled peas included in regular shipments of peas in pods went through in good shape and sold very well, according to one report.

"Since the increased tariff went into effect last winter, considerable thought seems to be directed to shelled peas. One man informed me that he was of the opinion that saving on freight and tariff combined might amount to one-third or one-half."

12b. WARM, DRY WEATHER IN FLORIDA

The following brief report came from H. F. Willson, at Winter Haven, under date of December 1:-

"During the past few days, the weather has been unusually warm for this time of year. In fact there has been practically no cool weather so far this winter. For the month of November, the average maximum temperature at Winter Haven was 80 degrees, with the average minimum 61 degrees and a mean average of 70.5 degrees. The maximum temperature November 29 and 30 was 85 degrees.

"There has been practically no rain since the local office was opened the middle of October,- only a light shower or two and not enough to be of any benefit. All crops are badly in need of rain and, wherever possible, irrigation is being used. Very few citrus groves, however, are equipped for irrigation. The drop of citrus is heavy for this time of year, and the fruit is not sizing up as large as expected earlier in the season."

13b. RECENT NEWS FROM WESTERN NEW YORK

The latest weekly report from Rochester office is dated November 24. Probably there will be one dated about the first of December, which may be received after this D.L. has gone to press. Excerpts from the letter of November 24 are given below:-

"F.o.b. selling did not assume the activity desired for Thanksgiving trade. The abnormally warm weather prevailing throughout most of November served to reduce both the desire to buy and the quality of the goods offered. Practically all cabbage has been cut; shipments are now moving from storage and the general price range has shown a slight advance. Celery holdings between November 13 and 20 were reduced 300 cars. The quantity in cold storage in western New York November 20 was an amount equal to approximately 1,500 cars. At the same time last season slightly more than 1,600 carloads were in cold storage. (Editor's note:- By November 27, the storage holdings were down to 353,618 crates.) Demand for potatoes was rather slow and the f.o.b. market held from about steady to dull. Onions met only a moderate demand, with f.o.b. values mostly unchanged. There are some reports of sprouting in common storage. The apple market continued dull, movement was moderately light, and sales were scattered. The carrot market was nominally unchanged.

"The general outlook for the western New York celery deal is unpromising. Storage holdings are showing a wide variation in quality and condition. Supplies, in the main, will have to be moved during the next three weeks.

"The unseasonably warm weather has served as a serious handicap to shippers of cabbage. Most of the shipments are now coming from temporary storage or from some protected locations. Wisconsin is rapidly cleaning up, storages are reported to be only about one-third full and movement from now on will be relatively light.

"The loadings of apples have been quite largely of inferior grades of fruit. Numerous cars are being shipped for cider plants and other commercial purposes. A few more cars moved for export shipment. We have record in this office of 132 cars being shipped this season to one town in this State, all of which are believed to be for cider or canning purposes."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 2	Oct. 27*
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches*	Sept. 10	Oct. 3*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Nov. 7*
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	Mar. 26
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	J. B. Owens	Apples	Sept. 15	Dec. 12
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar. 1
			Vegetables	Jan. 1	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P. O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples	Oct. 30	Nov. 25
			Onions	Oct. 30	Apr. 2
			Potatoes	Oct. 30	May 14
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Dec. 1	Jan. 9

**State cooperating

*Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Portland
H. E. Rutland at Williston, Fla.
R. M. Peterson in Minneapolis

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in the table to keep it up to date.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

1e. FAILURE TO PAY BROKERAGE IS CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF P.A.C. ACT

Failure to pay brokerage or commission due as compensation to brokers or commission men in negotiating sales of fresh fruits or vegetables in interstate commerce is a violation under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the United States Department of Agriculture announced as the result of an opinion rendered by the Solicitor under date of November 6. Section 2, Subdivision 4, of the Act relates to failure "truly and correctly to account promptly in respect of any such transaction in any such commodity to the person with whom such transaction is had."

The Solicitor holds that the words "such transaction" and the phrase "the person with whom such transaction is had" may be as appropriately applied to transactions between brokers and commission men with their principals as to transactions between seller and buyer. He states further: "I am inclined to think therefore that when a shipper, who is in fact a 'dealer' as defined by the Act, neglects or refuses to pay a commission merchant or broker for services rendered as such, a complaint made by such commission merchant or broker for the purpose of securing an award of damages under the Act may be properly entertained as a failure or refusal 'truly and correctly to account' to such commission men or brokers for their services thus rendered."

Prior to this decision, there was some doubt as to whether brokers or commission men could avail themselves of the provisions of the Act in collecting their compensation. Complaints against dealers for failure to pay brokers or commission men will hereafter be entertained by the Department.

2e. PUBLIC HEARINGS UNDER THE P.A.C. ACT

In the D.L. for October 9 announcement was made of an extensive trip to the West by C. P. Dorr, of the Solicitor's Office, and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan, stenographer, for the purpose of holding hearings under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act at various points. These representatives of the Department are still in California, and below is a list of public hearings which they will hold during the next few days:-

Date	Place	Parties Involved
Dec. 4	Los Angeles	Interstate Fruit Distributors vs. E. H. Eskey & Son
Dec. 7	Los Angeles	Harry Becker & Co. vs. Pacific Fruit & Produce Co.
Dec. 9	El Centro, Calif.	J. Katekaru Co. vs. W. A. Kendall

The following additional hearings will be conducted by E. F. Mynatt, of the Solicitor's Office, on the dates indicated:-

Dec. 9	W. Palm Beach, Fla.	C. G. Justice vs. C. S. Moore.
Dec. 10	Leesburg, Fla.	Henry Lorber & Co. vs. B. F. Lee and Beville & Oldham
Dec. 11	Leesburg, Fla.	B. F. Lee vs. Beville & Oldham
Dec. 12	Montgomery, Ala.	Michigan Land Co. of Ohio vs. Nathan Segall
Dec. 14	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Nehf Fruit Co. vs. Dawson Produce Co.
Dec. 15	Memphis, Tenn.	Matthews Produce Co. vs. B. F. Butler.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. CERTIFICATION CLAUSE ON CERTIFICATE RESTRICTED TO CONDITION ONLY SHOULD BE MADE TO READ "*** QUALITY AND/OR CONDITION ***"

Recently the admission of a certificate into court was questioned because it was restricted to a report on size. The present law authorizes inspectors to certify "quality and/or condition" and the certificate was ruled out because it did not report quality and/or condition, size being only an incidental feature of quality. Neither do we have specific authority to certify variety, although it may be stated on certificates reporting quality and/or condition. It will therefore not be the policy to restrict certificates to "variety" or "size" and, when these points are in controversy, the certificate must report quality or condition or both.

The certification clause on certificates as now printed reads "*** quality and condition ***." When a new supply is printed, it will be made to correspond with the wording of the law: "*** quality and/or condition ***." Until a new supply of certificates is printed, all certificates which are restricted to condition must be typed so as to make the certification clause read "*** quality and/or condition ***" by inserting "/or" between the words "and" and "condition."

2c. HEAVY INSPECTION WORK ON VIRGINIA APPLES

T. W. Ayres submitted the following report from University, Va., on November 27:-

"By November 15, we had issued 7,600 certificates on Virginia apples for the season of 1931. This date was practically the end of the apple harvest, but we have since issued several hundred certificates on fruit out of common storage and cold storage, so that we are well over the 8,000 mark now.

"Cold-storage holdings in the State are nearly the equivalent of 1,500,000 barrels of apples. Less than half of this stock has been inspected; so I believe we shall have at least 5,000 more cars to certify for domestic and foreign shipment. The movement out of cold storage is rather slow now, but we are inspecting from 40 to 50 cars per day. We anticipate heavier and more-steady shipments after the first of December, if the crop is to be marketed in an orderly manner.

"The inspected stock in storage seems to be in good condition, but numerous lots packed without inspection are having grade-marks lowered and a few show considerable decay. Many packs are showing slack, on account of careless racking of barrels in packing during the heavy rush of the season. So far, we have observed only occasional specimens of scald and do not think we shall have much trouble in this respect, as shredded oiled paper is in general use."

3c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

B. Riddick	Memphis, Tenn.	$30.00

The following should be taken from List of Past-Due Accounts:

C. S. Lowthrop & Company	Hope, Ark.	$4.00

4c. INDIANA SWEET-POTATO INSPECTIONS

J. E. Dickerson sent the following report from Indianapolis under date of November 23:-

"We are starting sweet-potato inspections in Indiana this year, and one inspector will begin work today in the Owensville section. We have a guarantee of a minimum of 100 cars. Whether the deal can be developed further than that, I cannot state at this time. However, I am told there are approximately 400,000 bushels of sweet potatoes in storage in southern Indiana this season. Little Stem Jersey is the variety produced almost exclusively, and Chicago is the principal market for this product.

"Certificates will be typed in the Indianapolis office, and receiving-point inspectors should wire here for reports."

5c. FLORIDA SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS

The following report of Florida inspections covers the first half of November:-

FRUITS

	Grapefruit	Oranges	Mixed Citrus	Total
Nov. 1-15:	83	74	21	178
To Oct. 31:	253	36	13	302
Thru Nov. 15:	336	110	34	480

VEGETABLES

	Beans	Peppers	Total
Thru Nov. 15:	1	2	3

TOTAL fruit and vegetable inspections Nov. 1-15: 181

Total Inspections through Nov. 15:

Year -	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926
Cars -	483	550	82	582	287	311

6c. BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

We have been advised that J. E. Durbin and Company of Indianapolis, Indiana, has been declared in bankruptcy. Any unpaid bills against this concern should be forwarded to Washington for collection.

7c. SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

A report for the month of October shows 8,513 inspections made at shipping points in California, including 307 shipside inspections at San Francisco and 7 shipside at Los Angeles. The leading districts were: Dinuba 1,345; Fresno 1,088; Modesto 883, Lodi 820, Turlock 652, Santa Maria 538, Watsonville 472, Salinas 396, San Francisco 386, Santa Rosa 298, San Jose 453.

8c. COLD WEATHER IN NORTHWEST; CHRISTMAS TREES BEING SHIPPED

The following interesting report came from F. E. Bailey, at Yakima, Washington, in a letter of November 28:-

"A minimum temperature of 7 degrees above zero this morning at Yakima is the coldest November temperature for this locality since 1921. Other Pacific Northwest localities are having comparably low temperatures.

"Approximately two inches of snow has fallen during the past month in the Cascade Mountains which divide the State. It is the snowfall in the Cascades during the early winter months which insures a reserve water supply for the fruit districts of the State, such as the Yakima Valley and the Wenatchee-Okanogan territory, lying on the east slope of the mountains. At the close of the irrigation season this past fall, the storage lakes supplying the fruit districts were the lowest in many years and a heavy, early snowfall is welcomed by fruit growers, as well as other farmers, who must depend on irrigation.

"During the past week, inspectors in western Washington have been giving considerable attention to the certification of graded and sized Douglas fir trees, which are being shipped east in carload lots for Christmas tree trade. There has been some inspection of this stock each year recently, but this season the volume promises to be greater than in the past and may approximate 50 cars. As there are several times this number of cars shipped each year from western Washington, there are possibilities for developing a new commodity for standardization and inspection projects here.

"The apple movement from all of the Pacific Northwest districts continues to be very slow, with export cars making up the majority of the shipments."

9c. ABOUT 80 CARLOADS OF FLORIDA CITRUS SHIPPED BY BOAT IN ONE WEEK

R. H. vonGlahn, of the Jacksonville office, sent the following report under date of November 27:-

"This week there are three ships leaving Jacksonville, carrying a total of about 80 carloads of citrus fruit to Europe, nearly all of which were inspected in Jacksonville. These shipments include the first direct movement of citrus fruit from Jacksonville to Scandinavian ports and I am enclosing a small clipping concerning same; this fruit was all inspected here.

"The 'Floridian' is loading today with about 45 cars and the 'Atlantian' will load Saturday and Sunday with about 25 cars, the 'Tirandentes' having already sailed with about 10 cars for the Scandinavian countries. Another ship is expected about the 10th or 11th of December. So it looks as though the export work would be quite a factor in the citrus crop this season, at least here in Jacksonville."

10c. ENCLOSURES FOR INSPECTORS

With this D.L., each inspector will receive a copy of the following:- "The Root Vegetables Act and Regulations," Canadian Dept. of Agriculture. Check List of Short Grade Forms Issued by the F. and V. Division, Dec., 1931. Suggested Tentative U.S. Grades for Pineapples (except Porto Rican pineapples).

A few days ago, each inspector was sent a copy of the short grade forms for Porto Rican pineapples. If anyone was overlooked, he should request a copy from the Washington office. All of this material has been furnished through Mr. Pailthorp's Project.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., P. O. Box 1347, San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	March 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, University, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 14	April 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus	Dec. 7	May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas.	Citrus	Sept. 20	March 15
NEW YORK:	J. A. Marks, 310 Triangle Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.	Fruits & Vegs.	Nov. 9	Dec. 15

REPORTS on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R. C. Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N. D.

REPORTS on Indiana and Michigan onions can be had from Federal-State Inspection, Court House, Warsaw, Ind.

ARIZONA:	E. L. Ruch, 610 Security Bldg., Phoenix, Ariz.	Lettuce	Nov. 15	Jan. 10
	R. H. Bertelson, 214 Trust Bldg., Nogales, Ariz.	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1

11c. SEVERE FREEZES THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

"Low temperatures this week have lowered the quality of many vegetable crops throughout most sections of California. The lettuce crop has been especially hard hit. In the Sacramento section, the last hard freezes practically stopped shipments temporarily, just as they were about to reach their peak. The quality before the freezes generally ranged from 75% to U.S. No. 1, but has dropped to all 'No Grade' after the cold wave.

"In the Delano district, certification of lettuce was entirely stopped on account of the freezing damage. On account of the genrally poor quality of the lettuce in the Salinas district, the inspection office there was closed November 25." - (California Inspectors' Notes, Nov. 27)

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection.

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman expects to attend the meeting of the Illinois Horticultural Society at Urbana on December 10. He will address the gathering on: "Recent Trends in Fruit Production and Marketing," and expects to return to Washington directly after this meeting.

C. R. Newton and R. H. Shoemaker, of the Regulatory Branch, plan to go to Pittsburgh by Thursday, December 10, in order to testify in a Produce Agency case in that city.

W. L. Evans spent Saturday, November 21, in New York City, gathering some information in connection with a case under the Produce Agency Act.

B. C. Boree returned to his desk in Washington on Wednesday, November 25, after his six weeks' field trip in behalf of the News Service.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, left Washington last Sunday night for the Eastern Shore of Virginia. All of this week he has been conducting meetings of potato growers and shippers and other interested parties at a dozen points in Northampton County. Next week a series of about nine meetings will be held in Accomac County on the Eastern Shore. All of these 1932 Early Potato Outlook Meetings have been arranged by the Virginia Extension Service, and large attendance is expected. Mr.Mercker plans to return to Washington on December 13.

J. Wm. Park expects to leave Washington on Sunday and will discuss the 1932 outlook for peaches at four sectional conferences to be held at four points in Georgia on December 7, 8, 9 and 10. These meetings will be of special interest to county agents, agricultural educational workers, bankers and peach growers.

Miss Verne Schult, secretary to Mr. Sherman, spent the latter half of last week in New York City.

Miss Lottie Sommers, a member of the staff in Mrs. Mills' office in Washington, was called to her home in Granby, Mo., on account of the serious illness of her mother. She probably will have to be absent most of December.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED): The new "PA-PE" page of the code is being mailed under separate cover instead of with this D. L.

Wm. E. Lewis, of Mr. Pailthorp's Project, is on annual leave all of this week.

J. G. Cross has left on a three weeks' field trip in the interest of reports from transportation companies. Most of his time on this trip will be given to reports for the Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, but Mr. Cross will also visit some of the Fruit and Vegetable offices. He will make stops at New York City, Boston, Presque Isle and other points in Maine, Philadelphia and Baltimore, returning to Washington about December 24.

Edward F. Mynatt, of the Solicitor's Office, and Miss Florine Colvin, stenographer, have gone on a month's trip to various points in the South, where they will conduct public hearings under the P.A.C. Act. The first few hearings to be held are listed on another page of this D. L.

R. M. Peterson has completed his period of annual leave and is now in Minneapolis, substituting for L. C. Tate, while the latter is on vacation.

B. E. Surry, who has been assisting in the Portland office of the Market News Service for several months, will proceed to Seattle by December 10 and will substitute for T. R. Hall, while Mr. Hall takes his leave, beginning December 14.

J. J. Gardner completed his work as Supervising Inspector at Martinsburg, W. Va., about November 23 and stopped at the Washington office that day en route to his headquarters in Pittsburgh.

THE TOLEDO OFFICE of the Inspection Service is again in operation. Wm. E. Phillips has resumed charge at Toledo, after having spent a number of weeks in the Pittsburgh office, during Mr. Gardner's absence on field duty.

B. H. Rowell has gone from Chicago to Kansas City, where he is substituting for F. M. Lyle, inspector, who is obliged to be absent because of illness of his wife.

O. G. Strauss, who has had his headquarters at Winter Haven, Fla., while doing inspection work under the Florida Green Fruit Act, will move to Orlando by Monday, December 7,and his mail address there will be Box 188. Mr. Strauss' office at Orlando is Room 403, Exchange Bldg.

THE DECEMBER CROP REPORTS, final reports for the year, will not be released until Wednesday, the 16th,at 3 P.M. The cold-storage report on apples is due for release on the afternoon of Friday, December 11.

PLEASE NOTE that a permanent branch office of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Service will be opened next Monday in connection with the regular inspection office at Room 609, Mariner and Merchant Bldg., 3rd and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. J. C. Bigger will be in charge.

No Division Letter was issued last week, which accounts for the rather large issue this week. Division Letters will be published on December 11 and 18, but not for the 25th of this month.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

Vol. 12, No. 48 December 11, 1931

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER

(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

1a. USE OF AIR MAIL

All field men should be careful not to use air mail unless time will be saved thereby. It happened that a few letters, sent by air mail, were received in this office on Monday, November 30, from points at such distances that no time was saved because of the Saturday half-holiday and Sunday. The air-mail stamp may have caused this mail to arrive in Washington Saturday instead of Monday, but no mail which reaches the city after daylight on Saturday morning is likely to be delivered in the Department before 1 o'clock, when the offices close. For practical purposes, therefore, a letter sent by air mail must reach Washington on Friday, in order to receive earlier attention than would be given a letter sent by regular mail and arriving, say, Sunday night or Monday morning. This often means that no time is saved by using air mail from Pacific Coast points, as was the case with one of the letters in question.

The Division of Mails and Files attaches a slip to each official letter sent by air mail on which no time was saved, in order that we may be warned against incurring this small, unnecessary expense.

- WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. SPECIAL REPORTS ON CALIFORNIA GRAPES

Most members of the Fruit and Vegetable Division are acquainted with E. W. Stillwell, who was in charge of the market news work until May, 1928. At present, he holds the position of Manager, Clearing House, California Grape Control Board, with headquarters in San Francisco.

Mr. Stillwell has sent us single copies of special reports on the 1931 grape season in California, which are the products of his pen. One - a mimeographed report - is entitled: "Tokay Crop Sells Well in 1931." Another is a special article printed in the November 15 issue of the Bank of America Business Review, published at San Francisco. This article is entitled: "Review of the Grape Situation." All of this material is of real value to those who are interested in the California grape deal.

3a. TARIFF CHANGES ON FRESH PEAS, PEPPERS AND EGGPLANT

Tariff action taken by President Hoover, effective January 1, 1932, calls for an increased duty on fresh green peas from 3¢ to 3.9¢ per pound; decreased duties on fresh green peppers from 3¢ to 2.5¢ per pound and on eggplant from 3¢ to 1½¢. No changes were made in existing rates on fresh pineapples, tomatoes, snap beans, okra or Lima beans.

-- THE DIVISION LETTER DESIRES TIMELY NEWS FROM YOUR OFFICE. --

4a. PINEAPPLES TO BE INSPECTED IN PORTO RICO

A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector in Porto Rico, sent the following interesting report from San Juan on November 28:-

"On Tuesday, November 24, there was a meeting of pineapple growers for the purpose of discussion and demonstration of the U.S. Grades on Pineapples. This was a very representative meeting, attended by about 50 of the most prominent growers on the Island. As the result of this meeting, I believe that fully 50% of the shipments for the coming season will be Government inspected.

"The pineapple crop is much more widely distributed over the Island than the citrus crop and I believe that we shall have more tonnage than we can properly handle, if we increase it to more than 50%. This work is going to need a lot of packing-house supervision, as well as inspection on the docks, and I am therefore inclined to concentrate our inspection in the most prominent districts. Our heavy shipping period covers only about six weeks.

"The low prices of grapefruit, both in the States and in Europe, have practically shut off shipments from Porto Rico. While there are a couple hundred thousand boxes of grapefruit that could be moved, growers are not inclined to ship them on account of the present low prices.

"Pineapple inspection work will not be heavy until after the first of January, though we are doing all the packing-house instruction work that we can possibly do. This work is all educational and no certificates are being issued, but we intend to start issuing them the first part of next month.

"There will be practically no vegetable shipments before the middle of December, but from that time on they should start to pick up and should be fairly heavy between the middle of January and the first of April, when pineapples really start moving. The peak movement of vegetables probably will come during the last two weeks of February.

"Every indication points to an extra-heavy summer and fall crop of grapefruit. The trees are in excellent condition and are starting to bloom. This bloom is about 3 to 4 weeks earlier than we had expected."

5a. UNUSUAL DELAY IN RECEIPT OF DIVISION LETTER

For some unknown reason, handling of the D.L. in the mails last week was greatly delayed. Possibly the Christmas rush has already begun. Five branch offices - Boston, Newark, Cleveland, Kansas City and Minneapolis - wired or wrote the Washington office about non-receipt of the D.L. by Tuesday. For the next few weeks, it may be advisable to wait at least until Thursday, before notifying Washington that no Division Letters have been received. As a rule, the D.L. is placed in the mail not later than Saturday noon.

If any office eventually failed to get last week's D.L., copies should now be requested from Washington, because it is very important that every member of the staff have a copy of each and every Division Letter.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. HEAVIER MOVEMENT OF IDAHO POTATOES

The following letter of December 4 came from R. G. Risser, at the Idaho Falls office:-

"This week's developments in the potato situation have included heavier State and national shipments. Yesterday Idaho shipped 134 cars, which was the heaviest movement recorded since digging was completed. While Idaho had more or less snow and night temperatures have been around zero or below, weather during the day has moderated sufficiently to permit haulings each day. Heavier haulings would be possible, however, with milder weather. But shippers say that temperatures at this season are more likely to go down than to go up. Passings through Salt Lake City jumped to 31 cars on December 3, following two days of 11 cars each.

"Under the influence of the heavier movement, the demand is somewhat slower and market slightly weaker.

"Proposed adjustments in freight rates continue to hold the interest of shippers. Some changes have already been made and others are in prospect. The long hauls and wide distribution of Idaho potatoes involve many problems of transportation costs."

2b. MAINE POTATO MARKET UNSETTLED

The following information came in a letter of December 5 from V. H. Nicholson, at Presque Isle:-

"Shipments of Maine potatoes this week will probably exceed 1,000 cars for the first time since the last week in October. (Editor's note:- Shipments for the week actually totaled 1,165 cars.) However, total movement to date amounts to only 14,083 cars, compared with 18,737 to the corresponding time last season and 13,676 to the same date in 1928.

"Shippers reported a slightly improved demand during the first part of the week, but the market was rather dull yesterday (Friday). The street price strengthened to 50¢-60¢ bulk per barrel at the beginning of the week, but it has now dropped back to mostly 50¢, with a few lots moving at both higher and lower figures. Growers seem willing to haul a few potatoes for 50¢, but are very unwilling to sell below that price. Haulings have been comparatively light, however, as most growers feel that the market will advance around the first of the year."

3b. COLORADO ONION PRICES ADVANCE SHARPLY

Bryce Morris wrote as follows from Denver on December 5:-

"The onion market has been the center of attraction for Colorado the past week, with rapid advances, due in part to speculative buying. Prices advanced about 75¢ per cwt., with some dealers asking 50¢-75¢ above prevailing prices. It was an odd coincidence that shipments from the Western Slope by Friday night totaled exactly 200 cars more than were shipped at the same time last year, while the Arkansas Valley was exactly 200 cars behind the 1930 movement. Growers were receiving $2-$2.25 per cwt. more than was paid at this time last year on the Western Slope for bulk No. 1 Danvers."

4b. RECENT NOTES ON MICHIGAN F.O.B. MARKETS

R. E. Keller sent the following report from Grand Rapids on December 5:-

"Since the Thanksgiving holiday, the demand for apples has been very inactive and the market has ruled weaker. Rail and truck forwardings have been very light. Shippers and growers with sound stock in cold storage are holding firmly for more money and are moving very little stock. Farmers with common-storage fruit, however, are in a very weak position. Fruit so held is maturing so rapidly that a large portion of it will spoil. There are large quantities of such distress stock remaining in the State, as many growers during the harvest season filled their packing-houses and barns with fruit and waited for better prices or buyers to clean them up. Most growers have moved a major portion of their apples, but still have some on hand; this is the stock that is in such a weak position. One large block of 1,600 bushels of Grimes Golden in common storage was reported as moving at 45¢ per bushel. This fruit was sold to a trucker; so was not included in the daily carlot f.o.b. quotations. Fruit from this same lot previously sold at 65¢-75¢ per bushel.

"During the past 10 days, the onion market has advanced sharply. The rise had long been anticipated, but did not materialize until the final estimate figures and cold weather stimulated the demand. Onion stocks in Michigan are scarce. Shippers report they now have many orders that they are unable to fill. Onions are largely out of the growers' hands, and those with stocks on hand are indisposed to sell. Because of the warm weather in November, a lot of onions are keeping poorly, and part of the present movement is shipments from common storage in the field to terminal market cold-storages. Because of the danger of a heavy shrinkage, there will likely be a rather orderly movement to market, with only the soundest stock being held for the late spring trade. Forwardings of onions are less than half of those of a year ago.

"The potato situation remains dull and unchanged. Loadings are light, with farmers reluctantly filling just such orders as they have to, for immediate cash. Truckers are largely supplying Michigan points, including Detroit. Prices to the farmers remain unchanged. The old-line dealers are paying 30¢-35¢ bulk per cwt. to the growers, and truckers are paying about the same. Rail forwardings of Michigan potatoes are almost four times those of a year ago."

5b. CALIFORNIA CITRUS CROPS REDUCED BY COLD WEATHER

Further reference is made to Par. 9b in last week's Division Letter. E. E. Kaufman, Agricultural Statistician for California, wired under date of December 7 from Sacramento:-

"Freezing weather in certain areas of California during recent weeks prompts us to reduce the figures on prospective production of the 1931 citrus crops in this State. The forecast at present stands as follows:-

	Oranges (boxes)	Lemons (boxes)	Grapefruit (boxes)
1931 Forecast:	34,900,000	8,000,000	1,400,000
1930 Production:	32,800,000	7,020,000	1,118,000"

The above figures have not yet been given to the public in a general way and are not to be released by any offices of the Fruit and Vegetable Division. They are confidential until the release of the December crop report next week.

6b. POSTPONEMENT OF PROPOSED HIGHER FREIGHT RATES ON POTATOES

A. M. McDowell, of the Waupaca field station, submitted the following letter under date of December 5:-

"In a last-minute decision, made public Wednesday afternoon, the Interstate Commerce Commission ordered suspended until July 3, 1932, the application of certain freight rates, including revised rates on potatoes in western trunk line and Illinois territories, which otherwise would have become effective Thursday, December 3. The suspension is said to have resulted from numerous protests from various sections of the country, following publication of the new rate schedules.

"No intimation that the proposed rates would be suspended was had by local dealers and, in anticipation of the new rates, Wisconsin loadings were heavier late last week and early in the week just past. It is estimated that probably in the neighborhood of 125 cars would have been rolled out of the State on Wednesday, had the date of the application of the new rates not been postponed. Deliveries by growers, however, showed no apparent increase. It is probable that shipments will now be rather light for several days.

"During the past week growers received mostly 35¢-45¢ bulk per cwt., with 25¢-30¢ paid for partly-graded stock. Dealers are operating on a rather narrow margin, mostly 20¢-25¢ per cwt., out of which must come 7¢ for sacks, 5¢-8¢ for overhead, and labor costs for grading and loading, leaving only a very small amount to take care of other expenses, such as risk of rejection, etc."

7b. TEXAS TOMATOES IN GOOD DEMAND AT FAVORABLE PRICES

W. D. Googe sent the following information from Brownsville, Texas, in a letter of December 6:-

"Light, misty rains have been general throughout the lower Rio Grande Valley during the past week and have improved the outlook for winter vegetables in this section. The coming week will see a rather sharp increase in cabbage shipments, the quality of which is improving. A fair demand is reported, and shippers are paying growers $15-$17.50 per ton. The carlot price is mostly $22.50 per ton and $1.25 per lettuce crate, f.o.b. usual terms. Beets are in slow demand, lettuce crates being quoted at mostly $1.25. An unusual feature of the vegetable deal this season has been the excellent quality of the fall crop of tomatoes, the demand for which exceeds the supply. Wire sales for U.S. No. 1 stock are mostly $2.25 per lug, while growers are being paid mostly 3½¢-4¢ per pound.

"The demand for grapefruit has been slow, but that for oranges is reported to be fair. Shipments of citrus have dropped off somewhat on account of the rainy weather."

8b. ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES ISSUED

The following summaries of recent marketing seasons have been distributed from the Washington office this week:-

"Marketing Arizona Lettuce, 1930 Fall Season," by B. E. Sarry.
"Marketing South Florida Snap Beans, 1930-31 Season," by V. H. Nicholson.
"Marketing Southern California Celery, 1930-31 Season," by Walter Kingsbury and W. L. Jackson, of the Los Angeles office.

This last summary is illustrated with a good map of California, showing celery shipments by counties.

9b. WESTERN NEW YORK SITUATION

R. L. Sutton sent the following report from Rochester on December 8:-

"The strength developed in the western New York onion market has been the outstanding feature of the past week. Inquiry has been heavy, demand good, and price-advances frequent. Movement of cabbage was active, with f.o.b. values mostly unchanged. Carrots are showing some improvement. The cars of celery being shipped are mostly fair to ordinary in quality and condition, with resulting lack of interest being shown by the trade. Potatoes held about steady, but the price range was not quite as wide as formerly. The apple market continued dull, although f.o.b. sales held mostly at former levels.

"Onion prices showed marked advances during the past seven days. F.o.b. sales now average close to 3¢ per pound. However, most dealers were holding for higher prices. This same situation was prevalent among the growers. It is understood that 3¢ per pound has been paid to growers and that some are holding for more money. The movement now is from common storage. An appreciable quantity of onions has moved into cold storage during the past week.

"Loadings of cabbage equalled in number those of all other crops combined. Growers were receiving $10-$12, with a few sales low as $9 per ton. The colder weather of this week will probably serve as a stabilizer of the market.

"The report of the holdings of celery in cold storage in western New York through December 4 indicates slightly more than 300,000 crates, or the equivalent of 1,200 carloads on hand. The holdings at this time are about 40,000 crates heavier than at the corresponding time last season. General reports are to the effect that the quantity of good-quality celery in storage is light.

"Dealers in the important commercial potato sections of western New York report only a fair amount of activity at shipping points. Prices paid to growers ranged 25¢ to 30¢ bulk per bushel.

"The apple market has registered no improvement worthy of note since our last report. Some of the common-storage shipments are showing a large amount of 'ripes,' with resulting lower prices. A little business on cold-storage Baldwins has been indicated around $1.10 per bushel, for U.S. No. 1, 2½ inches up fruit. The heavy movement of 'ciders' has passed.

"Activity in carrots is more pronounced. The crop is short, and the factors interested in carrots anticipate an early shortage in the storage holdings."

10b. NOTES ON THE COLORADO POTATO CROP

Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, sent the following information regarding Colorado potatoes in a letter dated December 5:-

"Clear, mild weather has prevailed over most of Colorado the past week, but the low temperatures continue in the San Luis Valley, ranging 20 to 25 degrees below zero. Shipments from that district have been very light on account of the cold weather, while the bulk of Colorado's potatoes have been coming from the Greeley section recently. Probably 2,000 carloads of potatoes remain to be shipped from that section, in addition to the truck movement. Prices in general have held steady on potatoes, with the inquiry fairly light."

WATCH FOR THE FINAL 1931 CROP REPORTS NEXT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16.

11b. FLORIDA CITRUS MOVEMENT VERY ACTIVE

H. F. Willson, of the Winter Haven field station, sent the following letter under date of December 8:-

"Shipments of Florida citrus were considerably heavier during the latter part of last week, and probably will continue so until around the 15th of the month. The first part of December is one of the heaviest shipping periods, if not the heaviest for the entire season. It is at this time that the markets secure their supply of citrus for the Christmas trade..

"As compared with the 1930 season, shipments to date, -with the exception of grapefruit, -are only around one-half those of a year ago. The 1931-1932 season opened considerably later than that of 1930, and this season's smaller crop has been reduced from the first estimates, due largely to the drought and heavy dropping. With the movement of December 5, truck shipments this season to date for all classes of citrus were over 1,300 cars. While there are no previous data on truck shipments, it is the general opinion that the truck movement this year is heavier than for any previous season. In contrast to the lighter movement of all citrus, the boat shipments have increased very sharply this season over last. According to the destination reports, the boat movement from all Florida ports is more than double that of a year ago for fruit destined to markets in the United States.

"The auction average for the past week, ending December 4, on 414 cars of Florida grapefruit in the leading auction markets was $2.30 per box, compared with average of $2.75 for 297 cars during the corresponding week last year. About 319 cars of Florida oranges were sold on the same markets for an average of $2.95 this year, compared with 470 cars at $2.80 a year ago. There were 211 cars of tangerines sold on the auctions this past week, compared with 159 a year ago, and the average price was $2.95, while in 1930 the average was $3.35.

"The drought was broken the middle of last week, when practically the entire citrus belt received a good rain, which was very beneficial to all crops. This section received a light rain last night, and the weather is somewhat cooler than it has been for the past few weeks."

12b. CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE F.O.B. CABBAGE MARKET AT RACINE

W. H. Hall, of the Chicago office, submitted the following report on December 8:-

"Due to a very short crop, cabbage growers and dealers in the Racine, Wis., district have shown more than ordinary interest in the market. Influenced by a steady demand from the nearby deficient late cabbage States, the market has shown an upward tendency during most of the season. Most dealers report inability to obtain enough stock to fill their orders and are, therefore, looking to the New York section as a probable source of supply.

"From now until the first of the year, little activity is anticipated in the Wisconsin market, but operators expect a stronger situation through January and early February. There are approximately 400 carloads in storage in the entire State and at least 75 cars are of small to very small stock. A lot of this small stock will not be marketed, and the total movement after December 10 is not expected to exceed 350 cars. The time required to move the remainder of the crop will depend to some extent upon how soon the Texas movement begins actively, but it is believed very few cars of Wisconsin cabbage will be shipped after February 1."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N.Y.** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 2	Oct. 27*
			Onions	Sept. 2	Apr. 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	Mar. 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches*	Sept.10	Oct. 3*
			Grapes*	Sept.23	Nov. 7*
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V.H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept.10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept.14	Mar. 26
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	Mar. 1
			Vegetables	Dec. 10	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P. O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples	Oct. 30	Dec. 19
			Onions	Oct. 30	Apr. 2
			Potatoes	Oct. 30	May 14
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Dec. 1	Jan. 9
The following station closes on date indicated:					
MARTINSBURG, W. VA. 9 County Court House	835	J. B. Owens	Apples	Sept. 15	Dec. 12

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Seattle
J. B. Owens in Washington, D. C.
H. E. Rutland at Williston, Fla.
R. M. Peterson in Minneapolis

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in the table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. WARNING RE CAR HEATERS

At this time of the year many cars are heated by charcoal burners. Inspectors are warned to be very careful when working in such cars and not enter them until they have been ventilated. The gas produced is deadly carbon monoxide and takes effect on a person without his being aware of it. Several inspectors in the past have had narrow escapes. When called to inspect a car in which the heater is burning, it is best to get in touch with the applicant and inform him of the reason for declining the request. For further information, refer to paragraphs 16 to 18 inclusive, Part I, Inspectors' Handbook.

2c. CALIFORNIA INSPECTIONS DURING NOVEMBER

California Inspectors' Notes, dated December 4, contains the report of November inspections at shipping points in that State. Including 313 shipside inspections at San Francisco, the total for the month was 3,711. The leading districts were as follows:- Los Angeles 842, Dinuba 537, Sacramento 481, Santa Maria 394, San Francisco 388, Stockton 163, San Jose 131, Modesto 111, and Watsonville 102 inspections.

3c. CALIFORNIA ORANGE INSPECTIONS INCREASE

"On account of the freezeswhich recently have been experienced throughout the State, the demand for inspection of oranges has increased in southern as well as central California. Messrs. Keyes and Madsen are working in the Lindsay district, Franzen at Reedley, and Powell is handling the inspections in southern California." - (California Inspectors' Notes, December 4)

4c. STATE OF WASHINGTON INSPECTIONS DURING SEPTEMBER

The Washington (State) Inspection Letter, issued at Yakima on December 1, contained the following tabulation of shipping-point inspections for the month of September:-

Apples	2,365	Onions	141
Cabbage	1	Peaches	14
Carrots	23	Pears	704
Cauliflower	3	Prunes	13
Celery	14	Potatoes	581
Lettuce	3	Spinach	6
Mixed fruit	18	Strawberries (barrels)	2
Mixed vegetables	4	Tomatoes	23
		Total:	3,915

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING-POINT INSPECTION WORK

State	Supervisor	Products	Approximate date of Opening	Approximate date of Closing
PORTO RICO:	A. S. Mason, 402 Ochoa Bldg., P. O. Box 1347, San Juan, P. R.	Citrus	April 1	March 1
MINNESOTA:	G. W. Christenson, 302 Gorham Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.	Potatoes	Aug. 15	Jan. 1
WASHINGTON:	W. A. Hilgeson, Court House (Box 190), Wenatchee, Wash.	Apples	Aug. 15	Feb. 1
NEW ENGLAND:	F. S. Kinsey, 703 Appraiser's Stores Bldg., Boston, Mass.	Apples	Sept. 1	Jan. 1
VIRGINIA:	T. W. Ayres, 211 Park Place, University, Va.	Apples	Sept. 14	Feb. 1
MAINE:	G. Ray Warren, Caribou, Maine	Potatoes	Sept. 14	April 1
FLORIDA:	O. G. Strauss, Box 188, Orlando, Fla.	Citrus Vegs.	Sept. 15 Nov. 15	May 15 May 15
TEXAS:	H. T. Longino, Room 5, Madison Hotel, P. O. Box 638, Harlingen, Texas	Citrus Vegs.	Sept. 20 Nov. 15	March 15 March 15
ARIZONA:	E. L. Ruch, 610 Security Bldg., Phoenix, Ariz.	Lettuce	Nov. 15	Jan. 10
	R. H. Bertelson, 214 Trust Bldg., Nogales, Ariz.	Mexican tomatoes	Dec. 1	May 1

REPORTS on North Dakota potatoes can be obtained from R. C. Hastings, State College Station, Fargo, N. D.

REPORTS on Indiana and Michigan onions can be had from Federal-State Inspection, Court House, Warsaw, Ind.

OFFICE NOTES:

F. G. Robb left Washington on Tuesday for a trip of two weeks' duration, which will take him as far as Des Moines, Iowa. He planned to confer with dealers in Philadelphia, New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, Ames, and Des Moines, regarding trade practices and the interpretation of trade terms in their application to complaints handled under the provisions of the P.A.C. Act. On December 17, Mr. Robb expects to attend the meeting of the Iowa State Vegetable Growers Assn., at Crystal Lake, where he will discuss the application of the P.A.C. Act to Iowa vegetable shippers.

O. N. Harsha and W. G. Lensen, of the Regulatory Branch, are on field trips, for the purpose of making investigations in cases under the P.A.C. Act. Mr. Lensen went to New York City on Wednesday and may be there for one week. Mr. Harsha left on Tuesday for Chicago and other points in the Middle West; his investigations may require two or three weeks' time.

Brice Edwards and Guy G. Chase have both returned from recent field trips in behalf of the Licensing Section of the Regulatory Branch. They are at present in their offices at the Earle Bldg., but expect soon to go on annual leave until the end of the year.

R. R. Pailthorp will go to New York City tonight and will attend on Saturday a conference of representatives of northeastern agricultural colleges and members of the Farm Board staff regarding further research work on motor-truck transportation of fruits and vegetables.

Wm. E. Lewis is spending this week in New York City and Rochester, conferring with interested parties regarding the interpretation of grades.

Paul M. Williams, in charge of the Canned Fruit and Vegetable Grading Service, expects to go to Baltimore next Wednesday and address a meeting of the Tri-State Packers Assn. regarding this new service.

E. P. Bostwick, in charge of the Chicago office of this Service, has gone to various points in Indiana, to inspect and grade canned tomatoes for the Veterans' Administration.

In addition to the P.A.C. hearings being conducted by C. P. Dorr, as listed on page 686 of last week's Division Letter, a hearing will be held by Mr. Dorr at San Francisco on December 17. The litigants are the Pacific Fruit & Produce Company vs. Moreggia & Son.

A. E. Mercker, Secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, expects to proceed to Blacksburg, Va., on December 15. He will attend the annual meeting of Virginia County Agents at the Polytechnic Institute and discuss the subject:- "Methods Used in Getting Outlook Information over to Farmers, Bankers and Others." On the 17th and 18th, he plans to be in Norfolk and Baltimore, at which points he will confer with fertilizer manufacturers and potato production credit agencies regarding the 1932 early potato situation.

In addition to Mr. Sherman's part in the program of the Illinois Horticultural Society at Urbana yesterday, E. E. Conklin, Jr., of the Chicago inspection office, is taking part in today's program of the Illinois State Vegetable Growers Assn. at Urbana.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):

E. F. McKune, Supervising Inspector at the Denver office of the Inspection Service, will attend a meeting of the Nebraska Potato Improvement Association at Alliance on Saturday ofthis week. He will give an address on:- "Federal-State Inspection of Potatoes."

Among visitors to the Washington office this week was J. J. Ahearn, a former member of the market-news staff. Mr. Ahearn is associated with Gentile Brothers Co., of Cincinnati, and has recently been working in the Virginia apple territory.

J. B. Owens, who has been operating the market-news field station on apples at Martinsburg, W. Va., since Thanksgiving Day, will close that office on Saturday and report to the Washington office for a few days, after which he will go on annual leave in the South.

W. F. Cox, who is stationed in San Francisco, where he devotes most of his time to the cooperative market-news work on California grapes and other crops, expects to be on vacation the remainder of this year.

J. A. Marks, who has been serving as Federal Supervising Inspector in New York State since September, will leave Rochester by the end of this week and report for temporary duty in Pittsburgh.

J. J. Gardner, of the Pittsburgh inspection office, will return to Martinsburg, W. Va., for a short period next week, in order to finish whatever work needs attention there in connection with the shipping-point inspections of apples, which he supervised during the active season.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to William C. Wolff, telegraph operator in our Detroit office, and his bride, who was Miss Ione Wegner, of Minneapolis. The wedding took place on November 30. Mr. Wolff formerly was located in Minneapolis.

ALL MARKET-NEWS OFFICES are hereby informed of a typographical error which occurred in Par. 5b of last week's D. L. The code symbol on the "NU" (Sweet Potatoes) page, which was to be changed, is "NUH" and not "JUH" as published.

"WINTER VEGETABLE PROSPECTS ON THE MEXICAN WEST COAST" is the title of special report F.S.:V-96, issued by the Foreign Agricultural Service Division on December 2. It outlines the prospective acreage of various vegetables in western Mexico. Copies can be had on request from the Washington office.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.

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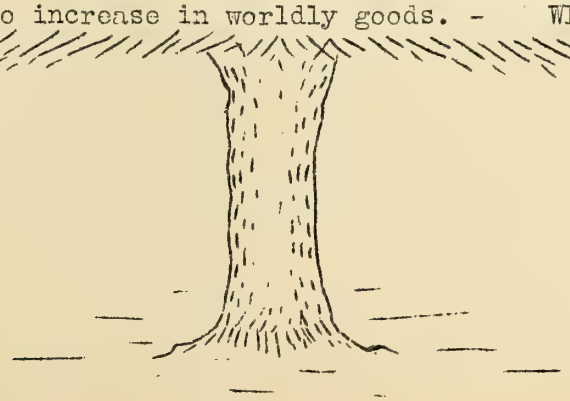
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION LETTER
(Issued every Friday)

CONFIDENTIAL
Not for publication

XMAS 1931

The Christmas season of 1931 finds us in the midst of world-wide difficulties. They affect our national life and the affairs of every city and country district. In many cases they have made our individual problems more difficult. While our salaries will purchase more than formerly, most of us have felt compelled to divide our incomes with others less fortunate to such an extent that our usual Christmas giving may seem more of a burden and less of a pleasure than before. If there are any who have not assumed added liabilities for the sake of relatives or friends, they can welcome the holiday season with the assurance that seldom before has it been possible for their gifts to accomplish so much in adding to human comfort or in alleviating human distress.

Under present trying conditions, the steadying influence of all the activities of the Fruit and Vegetable Division is more valuable than ever before. The long waiting lists of those without jobs is a continuous stimulus to do our best in the jobs we have and a continuous reproach to any who are tempted to do less than their best. It is probable that the generous spirit and habit of the Christmas season must be continued at least throughout the winter. In our response to the need, may we each show full and conscientious appreciation of the relatively fortunate position which we occupy. If we do this, we may confidently hope that 1932 will be for each of us individually a happy new year, even though it brings us no increase in worldly goods. - WELLS A. SHERMAN.



GENERAL ITEMS

1a. AVOID SAMPLING SEIZED MERCHANDISE

All offices, which may be called upon from time to time to draw samples of canned fruits or vegetables for grading, should make certain that the lots which they are requested to sample are not involved in seizure proceedings under the Federal Food and Drug Act. Usually a lot involved in such an action will be identified by a copy of the libel affixed by the U.S. Marshal. All libeled lots will likely have moved in interstate commerce, and will usually be found in jobbers' or public warehouses.

A lot of canned tomatoes was recently seized by the U.S. Marshal in an eastern city under a libel, issued at the instance of the Food and Drug Administration. Subsequently we were requested to grade samples from this lot. The instructions in such cases are that samples from such lots shall not be graded by this Bureau, except upon order of a United States court.

Subsequently, the defendant secured an authorization, signed by the Deputy U.S. Marshal for the district, permitting the warehouse company to draw samples to be used in grading. These samples were offered to our office for grading and certification. This request could not be honored for two reasons: - first, the order was not addressed to this Bureau but to a representative of the defendant, and second, it was not signed by the judge.

In the event that a proper court order is presented to any office, it will be incumbent upon the office to (1) write, or in urgent cases wire, Washington full contents of order, and (2) immediately contact the station chief of the Food and Drug Administration from the station initiating the libel.

- WELLS A. SHERMAN

2a. APPLES IN COLD STORAGE ON DECEMBER 1

Last Friday afternoon, the following report on cold-storage holdings of apples for December 1 was released in Washington:-

	Barrels	Boxes	Baskets
Dec. 1, 1931:	2,173,000	16,861,000	10,798,000
Dec. 1, 1930:	1,456,000	21,267,000	6,946,000
Five-year Avg.:	2,610,000	16,492,000	5,047,000

Total cold-storage holdings at the opening of the month were equivalent to 11,393,000 barrels, or only 5% more than on the same date in 1930 but 16% above the five-year average figure for December.

Supplies in barrels were 49% greater than last year but 17% below the average for this month. Boxed-apple holdings under refrigeration were 21% less than on December 1, 1930, and only 2% above average. About 77% of the boxes were still in Pacific Coast storages. The great shift to bushel baskets as a container for apples is seen in the increase of 55% over last year's supplies in this package and in the fact that basket apples in cold storage this season are 114% heavier than the five-year average for December.

← THE OPPOSITE PAGE (No. 706) HAS BEEN LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY.

3a. DECEMBER 1 HOLDINGS OF NORTHWESTERN APPLES AND PEARS

The following report was received through Mrs. L. B. Gerry, of the Spokane office, in a letter dated December 12:-

Storage holdings of apples in the Northwest on December 1 were as follows:-

District	Cold Storage (cars)	Common Storage (cars)
Wenatchee	5,862	4,042
Yakima	7,990	1,214
Spokane	68	150
Walla Walla-Milton-Freewater	316	5
	14,236*	5,411*

*Exclusive of holdings in Hood River and Medford districts, reports for which have not yet been received.

The following figures by varieties are confidential and must not be used publicly. Only the totals may be used:

Storage holdings by varieties on December 1 in Wenatchee and Yakima districts, compared with 1930, were as follows:

APPLES	YAKIMA		WENATCHEE	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Winesaps	5,632	5,222	5,769	4,815
Jonathans	787	224	122	56
Romes	1,323	1,670	652	724½
Delicious	770	1,166	1,310	1,424½
Yellow Newtowns	246	420	114	171
Spitzenburgs	26	62	76	122
Arkansas Blacks	216	278	123	129
Staymans	111	122½	429	405
Black Twigs	28	56	30	36½
W. W. Pearmains	13	34½	96	86
Black Bens and Ganos	7	20	19	35
Miscellaneous	45	62	25	53
	9,204	9,337	8,765	8,057½
Ranch holdings	-	-	1,139	958
Grand Total	9,204	9,337	9,904	9,015½
PEARS				
Nelis	294	621½	8	-
D'Anjous	140	186	35	-
Bosc	10	46½	-	-
Miscellaneous	8	56	11	-
Total	452	910	54	-

MARKET NEWS SERVICE

1b. ARIZONA LETTUCE SEASON DELAYED

A. E. Prugh wrote the following letter from Phoenix on December 5. It arrived just too late for publication in last week's D. L.:-

"The lettuce season in Salt River Valley of Arizona is very slow in getting under way. A variety of adverse weather conditions has delayed maturity and also caused the early maturing heads to show very little solidity. The operation of the standardization law has caused most of the ordinary quality to remain in the field until such time as it may develop.

"The Eloy district started November 11 and moved 169 cars to December 4, inclusive. The Salt River Valley moved its first car November 30 and totaled 22 cars to December 4. The Tubac section, near Nogales, has shipped 10 cars to date, and is about finished.

"Today (December 5) I noticed lettuce from Eloy showing freezing-injury selling in Cleveland at $2.50 per crate, compared with California stock at $1.75-$3.50.

"The final report of J.M. Foote, Supervisor of Inspection in the Standardization Service, after unfavorable growing conditions had taken a toll of 20% of the crop, showed 9,362 acres for Salt River Valley, 325 Rittenhouse, 120 Winkleman, 110 Tubac, 1,600 Eloy and 1,695 Yuma,- a total of 13,212 acres. The 9,362 acres in Salt River Valley compares with 13,882 in 1930 and 11,073 acres in 1929.

"Very few cash buyers have arrived so far. They heard that early quality here was ordinary and so they remained in San Fernando, even though the quality there was reported only fair to ordinary.

"Up to December 4, I had heard of no cash trading since my arrival here on November 29. However, with track holdings in eastern markets down to around 350 and the Sacramento and San Fernando districts of California slowing down rapidly, it seems that there should be a good market here between the 10th and 25th, even on fair-quality stock.

"Imperial Valley is slow in starting, and very few cars are expected from there until the 15th, and then only a light movement during the remainder of this month.

"An average of 40 to 50 cars a day is expected from Salt River Valley next week, with some improvement in quality. The Eloy district may move about 15 cars daily. We are having heavy frosts at Phoenix every night."

2b. ADDITIONAL MARKETING SUMMARIES ISSUED

The following additional summaries of recent shipping seasons have been issued by the Washington office this week:-

"Marketing Florida Celery, 1931 Season," by J. B. Owens.
"Marketing South Florida Tomatoes, 1930-31 Season," by V. H. Nicholson.
"Marketing Lower Rio Grande Valley Texas Cabbage Crop, 1930-31 Season," by C. D. Schoolcraft.
"Marketing Texas Vegetables (Carrots, Beets, Snap Beans, Green Corn and Mixed Vegetables, including Information on Citrus Fruits), 1930-31 Season," by C. D. Schoolcraft.

3b. CITRUS FRUITS AWARDED PRIZES IN TEXAS:

The following report came from W. D. Googe, at Brownsville, in a letter dated November 29:-

"As a matter of interest and general information, I am enclosing a list of citrus fruits entered at the Valley Mid-Winter Fair at Harlingen (Nov. 21-29) and on which prizes were awarded. The citrus exhibit at the fair was very interesting and instructive to me, and is said to be the best they have ever had.

"I have my doubts about the spelling of some of these names; also doubts about some of the 'varieties' listed. But this is the way the list was published:-

VARIETIES OF LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CITRUS FRUITS FOR WHICH PRIZES WERE AWARDED AT THE VALLEY MID-WINTER FAIR, HARLINGEN, TEXAS, 1931.

Grapefruit:
- Marsh Seedless
- Duncan
- Foster Pink
- Conner's Prolific
- Silver Cluster
- Walters
- Gold Medal
- McCarty
- Excelsior
- Inman Late

Oranges:
- Navel (Washington)
- Non-Pariel
- Med-Sweet
- Enterprise
- Golden Ring
- Ramona
- St. Michael
- Bessie
- Selecto

Oranges (Cont'd):
- Indian River
- Dugat
- Deller
- Ruby
- Norris or Hamlin
- Jaffa
- Purvis
- Pineapple
- Parson Brown
- Roselle
- Satsuma
- Valencia
- Temple
- Lu Gem Gong

Limes:
- Mexican
- Persian
- Calomondin
- Sweet
- Thornless
- Rangspur

Lemons:
- Eureka
- Meyers
- Kennedy
- Villa Franca
- Ponderosa

Tangerines:
- Willow Leaf
- Warmico
- Algerian
- Dancy
- Tangelo
- King Mandarin

Kumquats:
- Citrang
- Marung
- Nagami

NOTE: A few other varieties were displayed, but the above were listed as having been awarded prizes."

4b. MAINE POTATO MARKET QUIET

The following information came in a letter of December 12 from V. H. Nicholson, at Presque Isle:-

"There has been little activity in the Maine potato market. The f.o.b. market weakened slightly, and the volume of trading has been rather light.

"The street price dropped to 45¢-50¢ bulk per barrel for U.S. No. 1 stock delivered to the shippers' warehouses yesterday (Friday). Haulings have been heavier than a week ago, and the movement at some points has been quite free at the current prices. It is the general opinion that growers must obtain some cash for expenses during the next two or three weeks.

"Shipments to date amount to 14,983 carlots, or approximately 5,000 less than to the corresponding time last season. However, they now exceed those to

the corresponding date in 1928 by about 500 cars. While the Maine crop was estimated in November to be the largest on record, there is little to indicate that shipments will equal those of last season and, in all probability, movement this season will not exceed 45,000 cars."

5b. TEXAS CITRUS GROWERS GETTING ABOUT 50 CENTS PER BOX

W. D. Googe, in charge of the Brownsville field station, sent the following information in a letter of December 13:-

"A soaking rain on Sunday, December 6, practically stopped shipments of vegetables from the lower Rio Grande Valley for three days. As a result, the price of cabbage to growers went from $15 a ton to $25 and $30. After a few days the price dropped back again. Without interference by rain, cabbage shipments will likely average 30 or more cars daily during the coming week. The winter vegetable movement is now on in earnest.

"So far this season, tomatoes have proved to be the most profitable fall crop. The quality continues to be fair to good, much better than the usual fall crop in this section, and supplies have not been adequate to meet the demand. The fall bean crop is about over. Carrots are moving in larger volume, prices for which are firm at 85¢-$1 per crate of 5-dozen bunches in the field. These prices are net to growers, the shipper paying harvesting and packing charges. Prices for beets on the same basis are much lower, ranging from 20¢ to 30¢, according to quality.

"The citrus shipments are holding about steady. A larger percentange consists of oranges, which move mostly in mixed cars. The average price returned to growers is still unsatisfactory, being estimated at about 50¢ per standard box."

6b. SEVERE BLIZZARD IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO

The following report came from Bryce Morris, of the Denver office, on December 12:-

"The recent rapid advance in onion prices seemed to have leveled off slightly here late this week, with prices holding steady on the Western Slope and slightly lower in the Arkansas Valley. Most of the movement has now switched from the Western Slope to the Arkansas Valley, but the demand has continued fairly good for Danvers and shipments have been lighter on account of decreasing supplies. Remaining supplies on the Western Slope probably range between 150 and 200 cars, while slightly over one-half of the Arkansas Valley supplies have been moved.

"Severe cold weather and additional snow reduced potato shipments from the San Luis Valley to the lowest point of the season. Only 16 cars had moved from that section this week to Friday night. The worst blizzard in the last 15 years was reported from the Durango section, where snow varied from two to six feet in depth, with much livestock suffering from lack of food. Some reports indicate that it will be necessary to kill livestock, since food cannot be hauled in or the stock moved to sufficient food. This is particularly true of several thousand head of sheep marooned 10 to 15 miles away from forage supplies."

CABBAGE ACREAGE in the early and second-early States apparently will be about one-fifth less than the acreage harvested last year.

7b. WESTERN NEW YORK NOTES

The following report came from R. L. Sutton, of the Rochester office, under date of December 15:-

"The minimum temperature reported at Rochester for this season was 12 degrees, reached on Tuesday, December 8. Since then temperatures have slowly risen, but colder weather is setting in again today, December 15. The outturn of cabbage was liberal last week, the demand slow, and market slightly weaker. Celery moved in greater volumes, on account of the nearness of the holiday season. Onions held firmly, a little f.o.b. business reaching the $4 mark. There was not much change in potatoes, the general inquiry being rather light. Apples held mostly at the former position; much ripe stock developing in common storage. Carrots ruled mostly steady.

"The report of the holdings of celery in cold storage in western New York through December 11 indicates approximately 1,000 carloads on hand, or nearly 150 cars more than at the corresponding time last year. Besides the extra demand that develops before the Christmas season, it was generally felt that the growers would have to move a large portion of the storage stock before Christmas, in order to cut down the waste. F.o.b. values show a wide range, the best offerings recently not exceeding $1.75 for 2/3 crates. Yesterday we had a report of a carlot sale of poor-quality stock as low as 50¢. California continues to show an active movement, and Florida has already begun to move a few cars from the early plantings. The movement of early-season celery from Florida will be heavier than usual.

"The marketing of New York State onions apparently will progress at new high prices for some time. Dealers and growers quite generally are holding for the realization of higher prices. Some business taken under contract for future delivery was accomplished at $4.15 per 100-pound sack of good stock.

"Cabbage loadings were liberal last week. The dealers have lowered prices paid to growers, $8 per ton being the price offered at many points. However, there usually exists about a $2 variation in growers' prices, the $8 figure being low. The daily outturn during the latter part of November and early December has averaged higher than that of last season.

"The wire inquiry on potatoes has been only fair, demand spotted, and the market showing a slightly weaker tendency. Growers were receiving mostly 25¢ per bushel. Southern points continue to offer outlets for many of the western New York shipments. Washington, D. C., consistently takes above the average of most markets.

"It appears to be difficult to stimulate any activity in the apple market. Many of the Baldwins in common storage are becoming ripe, so that values on this class of fruit have lowered. Many of the shipments are being consigned. Movement from the Virginias has decreased considerably, and this reduction may serve as some inducement for the trade to buy more apples from the New York territory."

8b. CHRISTMAS TREE MARKETING

"Last year a small group of New Hampshire farmers ventured into the business of selling Christmas trees cooperatively. Carefully selected and trademarked with the brand name, the 10,000 trees thus marketed on the first organized farm-to-market basis were so well received that this season 40 cooperators are planning to sell some 20,000 trademarked trees by the same method. Last year's experiment brought the producers a premium of a 15% net increase over the regular price." -(from New England Homestead, Dec. 5)

9b. WATCH THE REVISIONS IN CROP REPORTS

In very many instances, the production figures and other statistics on crops of 1930 and 1929 have been revised by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates. . . . . It is unsafe, therefore, to use any of the figures for 1930 or 1929 as printed in last December's issue of Crops and Markets or as published elsewhere. The only safe rule is to use the revised data as wired with the latest crop report or as published on the mimeographed (State and U.S.) sheets, put out by Crop Estimates.

As examples of the recent changes,- the 1930 potato crop has previously been reported as approximately 343,000,000 bushels and the 1929 crop as 359,000,000 bushels. NOW, the 1930 potato crop is given as 333,000,000 and the 1929 crop as 389,000,000 bushels, the 1931 crop being estimated at 376,000,000. The 1930 total apple crop has previously been reported as 164,000,000 bushels and the 1929 crop as 143,000,000. NOW, the 1930 apple crop is given as 156,000,000 and the 1929 crop as 136,000,000 bushels, the 1931 crop being estimated at 212,000,000. Other crops have been changed in a similar manner.

10b. A REPORT ON MICHIGAN CROPS

R. E. Keller reported as follows from Grand Rapids in a letter dated December 12:-

"Onions are registering marked price-advances. Terminal markets ruled either higher or steady every day during the past week. F.o.b. prices were correspondingly higher. F.o.b. sales have advanced 50¢ per 100 pounds. Both trading and shipments have been brisk. While trading has been active, not all the onions now being shipped are going out on present sales. A large quantity of the stock now moving from Michigan is from common-storage houses to cold storage in terminal markets. This is also the case in other States, onion factors advise.

"Potatoes have been very inactive, with f.o.b. prices ruling a trifle lower. Prices to farmers are now 30¢, as against 30¢-35¢ bulk per cwt. a week ago.

"The last apple report of the season in Michigan was issued today. The bulletin was carried somewhat longer than usual to take care of the unusually heavy common-storage holdings. The apple situation was unprecedented in recent years. Michigan had the largest commercial crop since 1923, and many of the farmers unable to sell their fruit satisfactorily at harvest time held for better prices or a more-active demand. Hence, we carried our daily bulletin into December, to cover this stock."

11b. LAST YEAR'S CALIFORNIA CITRUS ESTIMATES REVISED

Par. 5b in last week's Division Letter gave the unrevised figures for the 1930 crops of citrus fruits in California. The crop report which was released on Wednesday of this week has increased the 1930 figures considerably. The 1931 forecast, in comparison with the revised figures for last season and the original (or unrevised) figures, is given below:-

	Oranges (boxes)	Lemons (boxes)	Grapefruit (boxes)
1931 Forecast:	34,900,000	8,000,000	1,400,000
1930 revised data:	35,000,000	7,950,000	1,250,000
1930 unrevised data:	32,800,000	7,020,000	1,118,000

12b. IDAHO MOVING ITS SHARE OF POTATOES

R. G. Risser sent the following notes from Idaho Falls on December 11:-

"Idaho has continued to supply a substantial portion of the national daily shipments of potatoes, leading all States except Maine in loadings during the past week and in shipments for the season to date. Whether this output of 95 to 192 cars per day can be maintained, however, is extremely doubtful. The demand has relaxed under influence of the liberal forwardings, and more snow has fallen. Warehouse supplies at shipping points have been reduced to some extent, and weather may interfere with haulings. With reduced prices, producers have been reluctant to sell, but have evidently needed funds and have been offering their stocks rather freely while conditions permitted bringing them in to the shippers."

13b. ABOUT 1,200 CARS OF FLORIDA CITRUS MOVED IN THREE DAYS' TIME

The following letter of December 15 came from H. F. Willson, at Winter Haven:-

"The shipments of Florida citrus, particularly oranges, have been very heavy for the past few days. Up until December 11 the peak day this season for Florida oranges was 188 cars on November 17. There were 216 cars shipped on December 11, and Saturday, December 12, was an exceptionally heavy day, with a total of 307 cars of Florida oranges. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday the total movement of oranges was 703 cars; grapefruit 118, tangerines 91 and mixed citrus 306 cars. The peak day for the 1930-31 Florida orange shipments was on the corresponding date of the peak day this season, or December 13, 1930. As compared with the roll of over 700 cars of oranges from December 12 to 14 this season, there were only 464 cars shipped during the corresponding period a year ago.

"In addition to the heavy movement of Florida oranges, the California shipments were very active until December 11, after which date there has been a marked decrease. The decline after the 11th can largely be accounted for by the fact that shipments from California after December 12 would not arrive on the eastern markets in time for the Christmas trade. The arrivals at consuming centers will be exceptionally heavy during the latter part of this week and the first part of next week.

"Grapefruit auction prices continued to decline this past week. About 336 cars of Florida grapefruit sold on the principal auctions for an average of $2.10 per box, compared with 414 cars at $2.30 a week ago. The orange market, on the other hand, showed an advance of 35¢ per box over the average price of a week ago. The higher prices were partly responsible for the decided increase in shipments. During this past week 331 cars of Florida oranges sold for an average of $3.30. Monday's auctions (December 14) were at lower levels than those for the week ending the 12th. About 93 cars of Florida grapefruit sold for an average of $2.05, or 5¢ lower than last week. There was a sharp reduction in oranges and the general average for 180 cars of Florida stock was only $3.10, compared with $3.30 last week."

B. C. BOREE,
Specialist in Market News.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS OF MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	Mail List	In Charge	Reports	First Bulletin	Probably will close
ROCHESTER, N. Y. ** D-310 Triangle Bldg.	837	R. L. Sutton	Pears*	Sept. 2	Oct. 27*
			Onions	Sept. 2	April 9
			Carrots	Sept. 2	May 21
			Cabbage	Sept. 2	March 26
			Celery	Sept. 2	Jan. 9
			Apples	Sept. 8	May 21
			Peaches*	Sept. 10	Oct. 3*
			Grapes*	Sept. 23	Nov. 7*
			Potatoes	Oct. 5	May 21
PRESQUE ISLE, ME.** Hedrich Block	842	V. H. Nicholson	Potatoes	Sept. 10	Apr. 30
WAUPACA, WIS.** Court House	894	A. M. McDowell	Potatoes	Sept. 14	March 26
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 230 Federal Bldg.	845	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 17	May 7
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS** Chamber of Commerce	931	W. D. Googe	Citrus	Oct. 15	March 1
			Vegetables	Dec. 10	June 1
WINTER HAVEN, FLA.** DeWitt-Taylor Bldg.	920	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 19	May 14
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** 412 P. O. Bldg.	895	R. E. Keller	Apples*	Oct. 30	Dec. 12*
			Onions	Oct. 30	April 2
			Potatoes	Oct. 30	May 14
PHOENIX, ARIZ.** 602 Security Bldg.	815	A. E. Prugh	Lettuce	Dec. 1	Jan. 9
The following station probably will open on date indicated:					
POMPANO, FLA.**	937	J. B. Owens	Beans	Jan. 5	April 15
			Peppers	Jan. 5	April 15
			Tomatoes	Jan. 5	April 15

** State cooperating

* Reports discontinued

W. F. Cox in San Francisco
B. E. Surry in Seattle
J. B. Owens on leave

H. E. Rutland at Brooksville, Fla.
R. M. Peterson in Minneapolis

FIELD MEN should advise the Washington office promptly of necessary changes in the table to keep it up to date.

INSPECTION SERVICE

1c. IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TOLERANCES

Heretofore, where all products examined showed defects in various amounts and no one contained more than double the tolerance for the grade, it has been the policy of the service to average and report on the lot as a whole. The U. S. apple grades, however, provide that any lot of apples should be considered as meeting the requirements of specified grades, if no sample from the containers is found to exceed the tolerance specified by more than one-half the amount allowed for grade defects, provided that the entire lot shall average within the tolerance specified. It has been decided to adopt this policy for all products for which the grades provide 10% tolerances. It will, therefore, be the policy to permit no sample to exceed the 10% tolerance for undersize or grade defects by more than one-half the amount allowed. The rule of permitting double the tolerance for undersize or grade defects, when such tolerances are 5% or 6%, will remain in effect, but otherwise these instructions supersede those given in Paragraph 155, Part Two, I.H.B.

2c. APPEAL INSPECTION CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE SO MARKED

Appeal inspection certificates should be indicated as such. In some cases, certificates covering appeal inspections have been issued without any marks to show that the inspection was made on appeal. All such certificates should be designated as "Appeal Inspection Certificates," and this can be done by typing the work "APPEAL" in capital letters immediately preceding the words "INSPECTION CERTIFICATE" in the heading.

3c. INSPECTION OF TOMATOES FOR CANNERIES

Early reports from States in which the Bureau is conducting cooperative shipping-point inspection work on raw tomatoes, delivered to canneries, show a marked increase this year over last year in the tonnage inspected. The following table indicates the approximate quantity inspected during the two years in various States, some of the figures for 1931 being preliminary estimates. The figures represent tomatoes purchased on a graded basis:

	1930 (tons)	1931 (tons)
Utah	--	45,000 to 50,000
Indiana	85,000	100,000
Illinois	--	211
Virginia	1,182	5,345
Maryland	--	11,500
Colorado	10,805	12,054
Ohio	9,098	18,088
New York	8,750	59,847
Delaware	--	5,741

Some experimental work was done in Utah during the 1930 season.

RECEIVING-POINT INSPECTIONS DURING NOVEMBER, 1931

Markets	Total Inspections	Inspections Same Month 1930	Inspections for Carriers	Declined for lack of time	Total Fees
Atlanta	52	76	0	I	$268.20
Baltimore	42	49	0	0	167.50
Birmingham	7	-	0	0	28.00
Boston	137	227	29	2	510.00
Buffalo	33	15	13	0	116.50
Charleston	3	2	0	0	12.00
Chicago	274	330	2	1	1,193.98
Cincinnati	67	65	0	0	371.42
Cleveland	23	8	0	0	128.25
Columbus	9	25	0	0	34.50
Dallas	11	-	0	0	44.50
Denver	22	29	0	0	86.00
Des Moines	15	-	0	0	105.92
Detroit	43	108	0	0	183.98
Fargo	2	-	0	0	8.00
Fort Worth	36	33	0	0	144.00
Harrisburg	16	6	0	0	63.55
Houston	19	35	1	0	74.50
Indianapolis	11	28	0	0	49.59
Jacksonville	121	36	0	1	478.00
Kansas City	62	66	4	0	243.00
Los Angeles	16	10	6	0	62.00
Louisville	13	-	0	0	57.03
Memphis	27	44	16	0	136.25
Milwaukee	78	87	0	0	321.06
Minneapolis	34	23	0	0	146.00
Newark	69	102	0	0	276.30
New Haven	58	50	16	0	285.46
New Orleans	129	164	21	0	243.54
New York	480	786	36	1	1,862.27
Norfolk	14	27	0	0	71.38
Omaha	20	18	0	0	88.17
Philadelphia	160	302	8	0	337.17
Pittsburgh	71	118	6	0	287.70
Portland	1	14	0	0	12.00
Providence	20	29	1	0	87.00
Rochester	6	8	0	0	30.20
St. Louis	59	75	5	1	242.74
Salt Lake City	3	4	0	0	10.50
San Diego	1	0	0	0	4.00
San Francisco	13	18	3	0	55.00
Seattle	4	0	0	0	30.00
Scranton	6	-	0	0	25.00
Springfield	33	126	1	0	154.34
Toledo	-	10	-	-	-
Trenton	3	4	0	0	15.00
Tulsa	4	-	0	0	17.00
Washington	29	68	2	0	259.37
Wilkes-Barre	5	15	0	0	20.00
Total	2,361	3,240	170	7	$9,447.87

The following inspections were made under agreement with the Northern Ohio Food Terminal at Cleveland:-Total 1,218; Nickel Plate 899; B. & O. 42; Erie 28; Pennsylvania 137; Kroger Grocery & Baking Company 65.

INSPECTIONS FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DURING NOVEMBER, 1931.

Symbols:- N - NAVY M - MARINE CORPS	ALL FIGURES IN THESE COLUMNS REPRESENT POUNDS									
	Fruits and Vegetables PASSED		Fruits and Vegetables REJECTED		TOTAL QUANTITY INSPECTED		"Cuts" made to comply with specifications		Items Billed Short-weight	
STATIONS	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M	N	M
Charleston	155436	0	10674	0	166110	0	0	0	0	0
Great Lakes	144453	0	4910	0	149363	0	0	0	0	0
New York	273369	56391	10369	490	283738	56881	78	0	0	0
Norfolk	295734	0	0	0	295734	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	238233	20017	2293	300	240526	20317	451	53	0	0
San Diego	570810	59943	31677	0	602487	59943	2643	353	0	0
San Francisco	701124	48500	32000	800	733124	49300	1500	0	0	0
San Pedro	754152	0	9944	0	764096	0	1072	0	0	0
Vallejo	134727	24077	30189	0	164916	24077	0	0	0	0
Washington	24468	0	2360	0	26828	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3292506	208928	134416	1590	3426923	210518	5744	406	0	0
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD										
New York	7433		600		8033		0		0	
INSPECTIONS MADE FOR THE U. S. VETERANS' HOSPITAL										
Chicago	87313		50385		137698		0		0	
Great Lakes	58490		4920		63410		0		0	
Milwaukee	98340		14195		112535		0		0	
New York	114348		18753		133101		0		0	
Philadelphia	44523		17290		61813		0		0	
St. Louis	27523		955		28478		0		0	
TOTALS	430537		106498		537035		0		0	

The New York office also inspected the following:	Fruits	Vegetables	Rejections
United States Lines	47019	126492	2447
Munson S. S. Line	4201	22376	1386
Dollar Line	14380	35720	678
American France Line	4109	18916	665
American Diamond Line	2092	8999	80
Columbian Line	879	4824	75
Totals	72680	217327	5331

The San Pedro office also inspected 13,823 lbs. bread; 10,076 lbs. butter and 1,130 lbs. cheese. The Vallejo office also inspected 21,805 lbs. bread and 145 lbs. rolls for the Navy.

4c. FRUIT SHIPMENTS FOR GERMANY MUST PASS INSPECTION AT PORT OF ENTRY

Below is a translation of a portion of a Decree to Prevent the Importation of the San Jose Scale and the Apple Fruit Fly into Germany, as promulgated on November 3, 1931. It has been taken from Reichsgesetzblatt No. 74, November 14, 1931. Paragraph 2, Section 1, of the Decree reads as follows:-

"Fresh fruit or parts of fresh fruit, originating in America, Australia, including Tasmania and New Zealand, Hawaii, Japan, India, Mesopotamia and the South African Union can be imported until further notice only through customs offices designated by the Government of the Reich and only in original packages and only under the condition that an inspection of the shipment for San Jose Scale has been made at the place of entry and at the expense of the importer and that no infestation or suspicion of infestation has been found. In case of shipments originating in the United States or Canada, inspection must also be made for the apple fruit fly(Rhagoletis Pomonella)."

5c. NOTES ON THE VIRGINIA APPLE SITUATION

T. W. Ayres, Supervising Inspector in Virginia, sent the following letter from University, Va., on December 13:-

"Cold-storage movement of apples has been very slow the past 10 days, due to glutted markets and low rate of exchange. So our inspections have been very light. The growers are beginning to realize that they must ship steadily, in order to move the crop, and take the average price. Graded stock is keeping very well.

"Common-storage fruit is still moving in bulk truckloads quite freely. Most of these apples are cull stock, which is getting rather ripe now. When this stock is out of the way, the domestic demand, particularly in the South, should pick up."

6c. LETTUCE MOVEMENT SLOW IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

"Due principally to the cold weather,only one car of lettuce has left the Imperial Valley to date, as compared with 39 cars by this time last year. The acreage remaining after the Fall hot spells and the recent cold weather is estimated by the Commissioner at 21,000 acres, which is a little over half of the total at this time last year, with prospects of poor quality for the early crop. Very little, if any, inspection work is expected until after December 15. It is questionable whether the F.O.B. Auction will be in operation again this year."-(California Inspectors' Notes, December 11)

Editor's Note:- The official crop report issued on December 10 gives a total of 33,500 acres of lettuce in Imperial Valley, with an indicated average yield per acre of 100 crates.

7c. NIGHT WORK INCREASING AT BOSTON TERMINAL

W. F. Plummer, in charge of Boston inspections, sent the following report under date of December 12:-

"Business at the Terminal showed some increase the past week; we had 22 inspections, against 13 the preceding week and 9 the week before. I cannot tell at this time just how near the fees for the inspections there will come to the amount guaranteed by the railroad, but will advise you as soon as the month is completed.

(continued over)

"One thing which I have noticed, since starting the night inspection work at the Terminal, is that our inspections on the commodities handled at the Terminal have increased during the daytime, and we are receiving applications from firms who have not used the service very much before. Possibly this would have occurred anyway, but it seems to me that the fact that a man is available there brings the inspection service more to their attention."

8c. CHANGES IN LIST OF PAST-DUE ACCOUNTS

The following should be taken from List of Past-Due Accounts:

J. E. Durbin & Company, Indianapolis, Ind. $4.00

The following should be added to List of Past-Due Accounts:

Pendley Brothers, Dayton, Ohio $6.42

R. C. BUTNER,
Supervisor of Inspection

STANDARDIZATION AND RESEARCH

1d. METHOD OF SCORING SUNBURN AND SUNSCALD IN U.S. NO. 1 NORTHERN-GROWN ONIONS

Individual onions showing bad sunburn should be scored, but onions showing slight sunburn should not be scored unless they are present in sufficient quantity to give the lot a distinctly greenish cast. Inspectors should not remove the skin to determine whether an onion should be scored as damaged by sunburn or whether it has sunscald.

R. R. PAILTHORP,
Specialist in Standardization

OFFICE NOTES:

Mr. Sherman spent Tuesday in New York City. He attended a meeting of the Food Marketing Research Council, and took part in the discussions regarding wastage of food.

R. R. Pailthorp is in Philadelphia today, conferring with a local committee of the National League of Commission Merchants regarding standardization problems.

It is very difficult for the editor to obtain information about all members of the staff who will be on leave during the remainder of the year, but he has learned of plans of the following persons:-

B. C. Boree, of the Washington staff, will be on vacation during most of the next two weeks.

Mrs. Ethel Mills, head clerk of the F. & V. Division, will be on leave in Florida from December 19 to 31, and during her absence Mrs. Mills' work will be handled by Mrs. M. M. Aylor.

J. B. Owens spent a short time in the Washington office, en route from Martinsburg, W. Va., to Marion, S. C., where he will be on vacation for the remainder of the year. About January 5, Mr. Owens will open the field station at Pompano, Florida.

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):

M. C. Gregory, of the Fort Worth office, will be on leave over the Christmas holiday period, and his work will be handled by A. H. Polster, of the Dallas office.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay W. Raplee, of the Buffalo inspection office, plan to spend their vacation at Mt. Carmel, Pa. Mrs. Raplee has already gone on leave and Mr. Raplee will be away from Buffalo from December 24 to January 3. Inspections for that territory will be handled from Rochester.

H. V. DeMott, of the Domestic Wool Section, and J. S. Bohannon, of the Solicitor's Office, have gone to Boston this week, for the purpose of investigating records of wool purchases in 1918 through the Army and to take depositions of parties connected with an alleged excess wool profits case, which is expected to come to trial in Chicago in January.

J. W. Dykes, of the Regulatory Branch, has gone to New York and Philadelphia, where he will spend about a week, making investigations of cases under the P.A.C. Act.

Brice Edwards and Guy G. Chase, of the Licensing Section of the Regulatory Branch in the Earle Building, Washington, have been assigned to extensive field duties, which may require two or three months' time. Mr. Edwards has already left for numerous points in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennisce, Alabama and Mississippi. Mr. Chase plans to leave Washington about January 3 and will travel in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Lyle, of Kansas City, on the birth of a daughter, Carrol Ann, on December 2. Mr. Lyle is in charge of inspection work in the Kansas City market.

F. S. Kinsey, who has had headquarters at Boston during the four months that he has served as Supervising Inspector for the New England States, expects to complete this field assignment by the end of December and will then return to his permanent headquarters in New York City.

George C. Moye, who has been working in New York City as a licensed inspector since the end of September, has completed his period of service there and has gone to New Jersey, where he will work on sweet potatoes.

B. E. Surry, who assisted in the Portland office of the Market News Service for a few months, also helped with inspection work on apples and pears for export, and with shipping-point inspections on Oregon cauliflower. He has now gone to Seattle office for temporary service.

ALL OFFICES, PLEASE NOTE:

Although no decision has yet been reached and no official orders have been given, there is a possibility that Saturday after Christmas and Saturday after New Year's Day will be observed as holidays in Washington, D. C. Definite instructions regarding the handling of market-news work during the holiday period will be wired to all branch offices in due time.

(over)

OFFICE NOTES (CONTINUED):

NO DIVISION LETTER WILL BE ISSUED for December 25 or January 1. The next D. L. will be published on Friday, January 8, and should reach all offices between the 11th and 13th of January.

PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR FILE of Division Letters for the year 1931. If any copies are missing, request extra ones from Washington promptly. No Division Letters were published for September 4 or November 27. This current issue is the last for 1931.

The editor takes this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed articles or letters for the D.L. during the past year. He wishes all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!